

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

(1) PHYSICIANS ENGAGED IN FAMILY PRACTICE ARE IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY IN THIS STATE AND THAT THE CURRENT EMPHASIS ON SPECIALIZATION IN MEDICAL EDUCATION HAS RESULTED IN A SHORTAGE OF PHYSICIANS TRAINED TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TO FAMILIES;

(2) THE NEED FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED FAMILY PHYSICIANS TO TREAT THE LARGEST CATEGORY OF HEALTH PROBLEMS IS CRITICAL;

(3) THE SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS PRACTICING IN THIS STATE CAN BE IMPROVED BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS TRAINING IN ACCREDITED FAMILY PRACTICE PROGRAMS IN THIS STATE; AND

(4) THIS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS WHO RECEIVE TRAINING IN FAMILY PRACTICE AND TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PRIMARY CARE FAMILY PHYSICIANS IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF THIS STATE.

(C) ESTABLISHED.

(1) THERE IS A MARYLAND FAMILY PRACTICE RESIDENCY PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS TRAINING IN ACCREDITED FAMILY PRACTICE RESIDENCY PROGRAMS IN THIS STATE. THIS SUPPORT SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE HOSPITALS IN THIS STATE THAT OFFER ACCREDITED FAMILY PRACTICE RESIDENCY PROGRAMS.

(2) THESE RESIDENCIES SHALL BE IN ADDITION TO AND NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR ANY RESIDENCIES PRESENTLY FUNDED BY THESE HOSPITALS.

(D) QUALIFICATIONS OF RECIPIENT.

EACH RECIPIENT OF A FAMILY PRACTICE RESIDENCY SHALL:

(1) BE A GRADUATE OF AN APPROVED MEDICAL SCHOOL;

(2) HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED IN AN ACCREDITED FAMILY PRACTICE RESIDENCY PROGRAM IN THIS STATE; AND

(3) FURNISH A SURETY BOND TO THIS STATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000 WITH SURETY SATISFACTORY TO THE STATE SCHOLARSHIP BOARD CONDITIONED THAT AFTER HE COMPLETES THE FAMILY PRACTICE RESIDENCY, HE WILL ENGAGE IN FAMILY PRACTICE IN AN AREA DETERMINED TO BE AN AREA OF NEED UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST 1 YEAR.

(E) NUMBER, AMOUNT, AND USE OF RESIDENCY.

(1) EACH YEAR, 20 FAMILY PRACTICE RESIDENCIES SHALL BE AWARDED.

(2) EACH FAMILY PRACTICE RESIDENCY: