

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** CS/SB 8

**50th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2012**

**Tracking Number:** .188874.1

**Short Title:** Primary Care Physician Conditional Tuition

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Dede Feldman

**Analyst:** Travis Dulany

**Date:** January 26, 2012

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**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL 8**

**Bill Summary:**

Senate Education Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 8 makes an appropriation to support the *Conditional Tuition Waiver for Primary Care Medical Students Act*.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$300,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Primary Care Physician Conditional Waiver Fund for expenditure in FY 13. Unexpended or unencumbered funds do not revert to the General Fund.

**Background:**

According to the Higher Education Department (HED) bill analysis:

- a 2010 Council on Graduate Medical Education report found that only 17 percent of medical students list one of the primary care specialties as their first choice; and
- US Department of Health and Human Services data show that 32 of 33 counties in New Mexico are designated health professional shortage areas in one or more areas of primary care, dental care, or mental health.

According to the University of New Mexico bill analysis:

- American Association of Medical Colleges data show that the average graduating medical student incurs an educational debt load of \$150,000; and
- the conditional tuition waiver program attempts to recruit primary care physicians to underserved areas of New Mexico, as well as reduce the debt burden of the participants.

Current provisions of the *Conditional Tuition Waiver for Primary Care Medical Students Act* require:

- the Primary Care Physician Conditional Tuition Waiver Fund to be administered by HED;
- HED to award no more than 10 new waivers each year;
- participants to practice in an underserved area in New Mexico for an amount of time equal to the number of school years the participant received the waiver;
- the maximum amount of time participants may qualify for the conditional tuition waiver program to be five years; and
- the program to be funded through money appropriated by the Legislature, private contributions, and receipts from participant repayments.

**Related Bills:**

None as of January 26, 2012.