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**HOUSE BILL 2852**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Mosbrucker, Pettigrew, Corry, Steele, Rude, and Sells

Read first time 01/27/20. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to juvenile rheumatologists; reenacting and  
2 amending RCW 28B.115.070; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that arthritis is a  
5 chronic health problem, is the nation's leading cause of physical  
6 disability among Americans, and is most common among people with  
7 multiple chronic conditions. The legislature also finds that children  
8 can develop juvenile arthritis, even as early as one year old or  
9 younger. An estimated three hundred thousand children under the age  
10 of eighteen have a form of juvenile arthritis or a rheumatic  
11 condition. In Washington, there are an estimated six thousand one  
12 hundred children who live with juvenile arthritis. These children  
13 experience pain, stiffness, and swelling of the joints that can lead  
14 to decreased function and mobility. As a result, these children are  
15 at a higher risk of depression as well as increased difficulties with  
16 learning, peer relationships, and leisure activities. The legislature  
17 also finds that there are limited physicians specialized in pediatric  
18 and juvenile rheumatology, with only two specialists currently  
19 practicing in the state. Therefore, the legislature intends to  
20 incentivize more physicians to specialize in pediatric or juvenile  
21 rheumatology or to work in Washington by including pediatric and

1 juvenile rheumatologists for consideration in the health professional  
2 loan repayment and scholarship program.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.115.070 and 2019 c 415 s 954, 2019 c 406 s 72,  
4 and 2019 c 302 s 6 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

5 (1) After June 1, 1992, the department, in consultation with the  
6 office and the department of social and health services, shall:

7 ~~((1))~~ (a) Determine eligible credentialed health care  
8 professions for the purposes of the health professional loan  
9 repayment and scholarship program and the behavioral health loan  
10 repayment program authorized by this chapter. Eligibility shall be  
11 based upon an assessment that determines that there is a shortage or  
12 insufficient availability of a credentialed profession so as to  
13 jeopardize patient care and pose a threat to the public health and  
14 safety. The department shall consider the relative degree of  
15 shortages among professions when determining eligibility. The  
16 department may add or remove professions from eligibility based upon  
17 the determination that a profession is no longer in shortage. Should  
18 a profession no longer be eligible, participants or eligible students  
19 who have received scholarships shall be eligible to continue to  
20 receive scholarships or loan repayments until they are no longer  
21 eligible or until their service obligation has been completed;

22 ~~((2))~~ (b) Determine health professional shortage areas for each  
23 of the eligible credentialed health care professions; and

24 ~~((3))~~ (c) Determine underserved behavioral health areas for  
25 each of the eligible credentialed health care professions.

26 (2) For the 2017-2019 and 2019-2021 fiscal biennia, consideration  
27 for eligibility shall also be given to registered nursing students  
28 who have been accepted into an eligible nursing education program and  
29 have declared an intention to teach nursing upon completion of the  
30 nursing education program.

31 (3) For the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium, eligibility for loan  
32 repayment shall also be given to chiropractors.

33 (4) Beginning with the 2020 award cycle, the department must  
34 consider pediatric and juvenile rheumatologists for eligibility for  
35 loan repayment.

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