HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3501 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2897

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul K. Frost

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act relative to creating a grant program for medical students.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Paul K. Frost	*7th Worcester*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 2897

By Mr. Frost of Auburn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2897) of Paul K. Frost for legislation to establish a grant program within the Department of Public Health for students in the doctor and nursing facilities that service uninsured and low-income patients in the commonwealth . Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to creating a grant program for medical students.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2000 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding after section 19A the following section:—

Section 19B. There shall be a grant program for the purpose of encouraging outstanding students to enlist in the doctor and nursing facilities that service uninsured and low-income patients in the commonwealth by providing financial assistance for students enrolled in any qualified education program that is necessary to obtain a medical license, as defined below. The program shall be administered by the department of public health in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the department of public health. The program shall be subject to appropriation.

The term “qualified education program” shall mean any program at an accredited educational facility that must be completed in order to obtain a degree in the medical field, or to obtain a medical practitioner’s license.

The council shall promulgate guidelines governing the grant program for doctors and nurses. These guidelines shall include the following provisions :

(1) Eligibility shall be limited to persons entering the doctor or nursing education program after July 1, 2009 who have signed a contract stating that they will work in a health clinic, established doctor’s office or medical facility that treats patients who are uninsured, or low-income, while they are attending school. These specific facilities will be deemed by the Public Health department;

(2) The commonwealth shall pay a participating doctor’s or nurse’s costs incurred in being enrolled in a qualified education program at a rate not to exceed $150.00 per month for a period not to exceed 48 months;

22 (3) Repayment shall be made to the participating doctor or nurse annually upon the
23 presentation by the participating doctor or nurse of satisfactory evidence of enrollment in
24 qualified education program, as well as satisfactory service to the commonwealth through
25 medical facilities that treat low-income or uninsured patients;

26 (4) Payments by the commonwealth shall cover only costs made by the participating
27 nurse or doctor in the months during which the participating nurse or doctor is actively enrolled
28 in the education program in the commonwealth, and working with a designated medical facility ;

29 (5) The program will be limited to doctors and nurses who sign a contract to practice in
30 health care facilities designated by the department of public health as caring for low-income or
31 uninsured patients.

32 Expenses for administration of the program may be retained in an interest bearing trust
33 fund to be established by the department of public health and expended for the costs of
34 administering the program without further appropriation, and any funds remaining in the trust at
35 the termination of the program shall be returned of the General Fund.