

Bill Proposes Financial Aid To Physicians

RALEIGH — A bill which would provide incentive for groups of two or more physicians to locate practices in rural North Carolina counties was introduced by 19th House District Rep. Ron Taylor on Tuesday of last week.

The bill, set up on a two-year trial basis, provides financial assistance to groups of two or more physicians who want to locate in counties which have towns no larger than 7,000 population.

Taylor said the bill was aimed at recruiting more primary care physician practices in rural North Carolina counties. Guidelines for the trial program will be set up by the Department of Human Resources, Division of Rural Health Services, according to the bill.

"There is a large concentration of physicians in the urban areas of our state," Taylor said after introducing the bill, "and there are few physicians in the rural counties. This situation causes rural residents to lack proper medical care."

The bill, if passed, will appropriate \$125,000 for each of the 1977-78 and 1978-79 fiscal years to set up practices of two or more primary care physicians.

"Physicians are just like most people, they want good working conditions, good school systems and entertainment. We don't want physicians who want to set up practice for two or three years and then leave, we want physicians who will take part in community activities and stay. We aren't claiming rural life is for everyone, if they want to live in cities, we don't want them, but we feel there are physicians who would like to set up practices in rural counties and they need help getting started."

"This bill will help them set up practices and at the same time, help improve rural health care," Taylor said.

Financial assistance to physicians wanting to locate in rural counties, under the proposed bill, could be for: staff salary support; construction loans; equipment grants; educational incentives; and guaranteed annual incomes.

No guidelines have been set up to regulate which counties would receive the limited funds first.

At the end of the two-year trial period, the program would be evaluated by the General Assembly based on a report of the program submitted by the Department of Human Resources.

The bill, if passed, would apply to 55 counties in the state. The counties are as follows: Cherokee; Clay; Graham; Jackson; Macon; Swain; Madison; McDowell; Polk; Alleghany; Ashe; Avery; Mitchell; Wilkes; Yancey; Alexander; Caswell; Davie; Stokes; Yadkin; Anson; Montgomery; Chatham; Franklin; Warren; Northampton; Bladen; Hoke; Brunswick; Columbus; Pender; Duplin; Greene; Jones; Pamlico; Bertie; Camden; Chowan; Cufrituck; Dare; Gates; Hyde; Perquimans; Tyrrell; Washington; Haywood; Henderson; Transylvania; Lincoln; Moore; Johnston; Person; Carteret; Hertford; and Martin.

White Assigned To Military Police Unit

Taegu, Korea—Army Pvt. Michael L. White, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson L. White, Route 3, Edenton, N. C., recently was assigned to the 110th Military Police Company in Taegu, Korea.

Pvt. White is a military policeman with the unit. The private entered the Army in July, 1976.

He is a 1976 graduate of Chowan High School at Tyrner, N. C.

Belk Tyler

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