

Senate Bill 507

By: Senators Thomas of the 54th, Smith of the 52nd, Unterman of the 45th, Hill of the 32nd,
Goggans of the 7th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Chapter 34 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 physicians for rural areas assistance, so as to revise the purpose of the chapter; to revise
3 certain provisions regarding priority for certain specialties; to provide for related matters; to
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 34 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to physicians for
8 rural areas assistance, is amended by striking Code Section 31-34-2, relating to the purpose
9 of the chapter, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

10 "31-34-2.

11 It is the purpose of this chapter to increase the number of physicians in physician under
12 served rural areas of Georgia by making loans to ~~young~~ physicians who ~~recently~~ have
13 completed their medical education and allowing such loans to be repaid by such physicians
14 agreeing to practice medicine in such rural areas."

15 **SECTION 2.**

16 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 31-34-4, relating to loan applicant
17 qualifications and rules and regulations, by striking subsection (c) and inserting in lieu
18 thereof the following:

19 "(c) The board is authorized to consider among other criteria for granting loans under the
20 provisions of this chapter the state residency status and home area of the applying
21 physician and to give priority to those applicants who are physicians ~~specializing in and~~
22 ~~actively practicing obstetrics~~ actively practicing or beginning active practice in specialties
23 experiencing shortages or distribution problems in rural areas of this state as determined
24 by the board pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by it in accordance with this chapter.
25 ~~After giving such priority, the board may also consider, in the following order of priority,~~

1 ~~the applications of physicians specializing in obstetrics/gynecology, family practice,~~
2 ~~general practice, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, general surgery, psychiatry,~~
3 ~~or other medical specialties approved by the board."~~

4 **SECTION 3.**

5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.