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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
ACT MEMO**

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<b>2013 Wisconsin Act 128</b> [2013 Assembly Bill 454]	<b>Primary Care and Psychiatry Shortage Grant Program</b>
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2013 Wisconsin Act 128 (the Act) creates a grant program administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) designed to encourage primary care physicians and psychiatrists to practice primary care medicine or psychiatry in underserved areas in Wisconsin.<sup>1</sup>

A physician or psychiatrist is eligible to participate in the grant program if he or she: (a) graduated from a graduate medical education training program in Wisconsin with an emphasis on primary care medicine or psychiatry in 2014 or any year thereafter; (b) practices primary care medicine or psychiatry in an underserved area in Wisconsin; and (c) does not appear on the statewide child support lien docket.

The Act provides \$1,500,000 general purpose revenue in 2014-15 for the program, to be divided equally between grants for physicians and grants for psychiatrists. The grants are for “financial assistance” for recipients. The Act does not specify any limitations on how the grant funds may be used by recipients.

HEAB must award grants to up to 12 physicians and up to 12 psychiatrists annually. If more than 12 physicians or 12 psychiatrists apply for the grant in any fiscal year, HEAB must

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<sup>1</sup> “Primary care medicine” includes all of the following medical specialties: (a) family practice; (b) internal medicine; (c) pediatrics; or (d) general surgery. “Psychiatry” is defined as including child psychiatry. An “underserved area” is an area that is designated by the federal Department of Health and Human Services as having a shortage of medical care professionals, an area that is designated by the Governor and certified by the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services as an area with a shortage of personal health services, or an area designated by the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services as an area with a shortage of personal health services.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

select program participants from among the applicants based on the order in which the applications were received and the health professional shortage area score of the underserved areas in which the physician or psychiatrist would be practicing.

Physicians and psychiatrists who are selected to participate in the program are eligible to receive grants for up to three years.

*Effective date:* February 8, 2014.

*Prepared by:* Mary Matthias, Principal Attorney

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