A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to specialty areas, service commitment area
2 distance requirements, and practice-related requirements
3 under the rural Iowa primary care loan repayment program.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
Section 1. Section 261.113, subsection 3, paragraph d, Code 2020, is amended to read as follows:

"d. Within nine months of graduating from the residency program and receiving a permanent license in accordance with paragraph "b", engage in the full-time practice of medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery specializing in family medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, or general surgery for a period of five consecutive years in the service commitment area specified under subsection 6, unless the loan repayment recipient receives a waiver from the commission to complete the years of practice required under the agreement in another service commitment area pursuant to subsection 6."

Sec. 2. Section 261.113, subsection 8, Code 2020, is amended to read as follows:

"8. Part-time practice — agreement amended. A person who entered into an agreement pursuant to subsection 3 may apply to the commission to amend the agreement to allow the person to engage in less than the full-time practice specified in the agreement and under subsection 3, paragraph "d". If the commission determines exceptional circumstances exist, the The commission and the person may consent to amend the agreement under which the person shall engage in less than full-time practice of medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery specializing in family medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, or general surgery in a service commitment area for an extended period of part-time practice determined by the commission to be proportional to the amount of full-time practice remaining under the original agreement. For purposes of this subsection, “less than the full-time practice” means at least seventy percent of a forty-hour workweek."

Sec. 3. Section 261.113, subsection 11, paragraph c, Code 2020, is amended to read as follows:

"c. “Service commitment area” means a city in Iowa with a
population of less than twenty-six thousand that is located
more than twenty miles from a city with a population of fifty
thousand or more and which provides a twenty thousand
dollar contribution for deposit in the rural Iowa primary
care trust fund for each physician in the community who is
participating in the loan repayment program and which meets any
of the following conditions:
(1) Is a city within a federal mental health shortage
area, as designated by the health resources and services
administration of the United States department of health and
human services, if the physician participating in the loan
repayment program specializes in psychiatry.
(2) Is a city in Iowa with a population of less than
twenty-six thousand that is located more than twenty miles from
a city with a population of fifty thousand. The commission
shall determine the distance between cities by calculating the
most direct driving route.

EXPLANATION
The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

This bill modifies the requirements for the rural Iowa
primary care loan repayment program.
The bill adds obstetrics and gynecology as an area of
specialization that qualifies for loan repayment under the
program.
Currently, a person can engage in less than full-time
practice under the program if the person applies to the college
student aid commission to amend their program agreement and the
commission determines that exceptional circumstances exist.
The bill eliminates the language relating to exceptional
circumstances, thereby allowing the commission and the person
to consent to amend the agreement to allow the person to engage
in less than full-time practice for an extended period of
part-time practice. Under the bill, “less than full-time”
means at least 70 percent of a 40-hour workweek.
The bill modifies the definition of "service commitment area" to include a city within a designated federal mental health shortage area that provides a $20,000 contribution for deposit in the rural Iowa primary care trust fund for a physician specializing in psychiatry, and to require that the distance between a city with a population of less than 26,000 that is located 20 miles from a city of at least 50,000 be calculated using the shortest driving distance between the cities.