

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

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| Bill: | House File 1001 (Formerly HF 15) | House Committee: | PASSED on January 30 (21-0) |
| Committee: | Judiciary/ Appropriations | House Floor: | |
| Floor Manager: | Rep. Lohse | Senate Floor: | |
| Date: | April 22, 2025 | Governor: | |
| Staff: | Amanda Wille (1-5230) | | |

Rural Attorney Recruitment Assistance

- Creates a rural attorney recruitment assistance program. This program provides financial incentives for a limited number of attorneys to practice in rural Iowa.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 – Castle Doctrine for Cubicles (124J.2)

"Rural Attorney Recruitment Assistance Program"

1. Program Creation:

The College Student Aid Commission is tasked with establishing a program aimed at assisting rural counties and municipalities in recruiting attorneys.

2. Application Process:

- Counties or municipalities interested in participating must apply to the College Student Aid Commission.
- The Commission will conduct an assessment to evaluate:
 - The need for an attorney in the county or municipality.
 - The ability of the county or municipality to sustain and support an attorney.
- The Commission will maintain a list of assessed and eligible counties and municipalities and can revise assessments as necessary.

3. Eligibility Criteria:

- A county or municipality is eligible to participate if:
 - It has a population of less than 26,000.
 - It is located more than 20 miles from a city with a population of at least 50,000 (based on the 2020 federal decennial census).
 - It agrees to provide its portion of the incentive payment.

4. Incentive Payment:

- Participating attorneys are entitled to receive an incentive payment in five equal annual installments.
- Each installment will be equal to 90% of the University of Iowa College of Law resident tuition and fees as determined on July 1, 2026.

5. Agreement for Payment:

- The agreement for payment must require the rural county or municipality to provide 35% of the total incentive payments in five equal annual installments.

- After certification of payment by the county or municipality, the Commission will pay the remaining balance to the attorney.
 - Counties or municipalities can prepay their portion at any time during the five-year period.
 - Payments from the Commission will only be made upon completion of each annual employment obligation.
 - The agreement must require the attorney to:
 - Become a contract attorney with the Office of the State Public Defender and designate a minimum number of hours to provide as a contract attorney each year.
 - Participate in volunteer lawyer projects through nonprofit organizations that provide legal assistance to low-income and vulnerable lowans.
- 6. Funding:**
Eligible counties or municipalities may appropriate funds to carry out the provisions of this section. They may also enter agreements with other entities to assist in implementing the program.
- 7. Filing and Approval:**
Recruitment assistance agreements must be filed with and approved by the College Student Aid Commission. The agreement must stipulate that the attorney will practice law full-time in the eligible county or municipality for at least five years.
- 8. Ineligibility for Other Programs:**
Individuals who have previously participated in this program or any other state or federal scholarship, loan repayment, or tuition reimbursement program that requires them to provide attorney services in an underserved area are ineligible.
- 9. Fund Establishment:**
- A Rural Attorney Recruitment Assistance Program Fund is created in the state treasury under the control of the College Student Aid Commission.
 - The Commission can accept various forms of funding for the program and will use the funds to meet the program's requirements and increase attorney participation.
- 10. Administrative Rules:**
The College Student Aid Commission is responsible for adopting rules to administer this section.
- 11. Program Limitation:**
The program cannot provide assistance for more than five attorneys, and this limitation will be repealed on July 1, 2026.

Section 2- Code Editor Directive-

Code editor shall designate 256.231 as enacted in this bill, as a new subpart within chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 4 entitled "rural attorney recruitment assistance program"

Amendment Analysis

Lohse- 1264

Ensures that those on who are or have participated in a loan repayment program are still eligible.