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provided for in the Regulation

Document No. 4898

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

CHAPTER 61

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 59‑111‑510 through 59‑111‑580

61‑1. Medical and Dental Scholarship Fund.

**Synopsis**:

The Department of Health and Environmental Control ("Department") repeals R.61-1, which implements a Medical and Dental Scholarship/Loan Fund established by S.C. Code Sections 59-111-510 through 59-111-580. The Fund was intended to provide financial assistance for medical and dental school educations to recipients who would agree to practice in a rural area of the state for a specified period of time. The fund had originally been a scholarship program when the regulation was first adopted but was converted by statute to a loan fund in 1985; however, the regulation was never amended to conform to the amended statute. The General Assembly last funded the program in the 1988 Appropriations Act for the 1988-1989 fiscal year. The last recipients completed their service obligations in 1996 following three years of residency and four years of service.

In 1989, when the S.C. General Assembly ceased to fund the Medical and Dental Loan Fund, it established a Rural Physician Program to address the undersupply of clinicians in rural and underserved South Carolina communities. The new program is administered by the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium and fiscally managed by the Medical University of South Carolina. The program provides incentive grants for primary care physicians and advanced practice professionals who commit to practice in a rural or underserved area of South Carolina for a period of four years. Per S.C. Code Section 59-123-125, the Department's only current involvement with this fund extends to the SC DHEC Commissioner/Director or designee serving on the Rural Physician Board.

The Department had a Notice of Drafting published in the March 22, 2019, *South Carolina State Register*.

**Instructions:**

Repeal R.61-1, Medical and Dental Scholarship Fund, in its entirety in the South Carolina Code of Regulations.

**Text:**

61‑1. [Repealed].

**Fiscal Impact Statement:**

No fiscal impact to the agency.

**Statement of Need and Reasonableness:**

The following presents an analysis of the factors listed in 1976 Code Section 1‑23‑115(C)(1)‑(3) and (9)‑(11):

DESCRIPTION OF REGULATION: 61‑1, Medical and Dental Scholarship Fund.

Purpose: R.61‑1 is no longer needed because when the S.C. General Assembly ceased to fund the Medical and Dental Loan Fund, it established a Rural Physician Program to address the undersupply of clinicians in rural and underserved South Carolina communities. The new program is administered by the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium and fiscally managed by the Medical University of South Carolina. Should the General Assembly decide to fund the Medical and Dental Fund the statute provides for funding loans without the need for regulation.

Legal Authority: 1976 Code Sections 59‑111‑510 through 59‑111‑580.

Plan for Implementation: The DHEC Regulation Development Update (accessible at http://www.scdhec.gov/Agency/RegulationsAndUpdates/RegulationDevelopmentUpdate/) provides a summary of and link to this repeal. Additionally, printed copies are available for a fee from the Department’s Freedom of Information Office. Upon taking legal effect, Department personnel will take appropriate steps to inform the regulated community of the repeal and any associated information.

DETERMINATION OF NEED AND REASONABLENESS OF THE REGULATION BASED ON ALL FACTORS HEREIN AND EXPECTED BENEFITS:

The General Assembly last funded the program in the 1988 Appropriations Act for the 1988‑1989 fiscal year. The last recipients completed their service obligations in 1996 following three years of residency and four years of service. Since the General Assembly has not funded the Medical and Dental Scholarship/Loan program since FY 1989, the Department has had no funds to administer and the program has been dormant for the past thirty years. As such, the Department repeals R.61‑1.

DETERMINATION OF COSTS AND BENEFITS:

There are no costs to the state or its political subdivisions associated with the repeal of R.61‑1. The benefit of repealing this regulation is removing an unnecessary regulation that is no longer consistent with the statute.

UNCERTAINTIES OF ESTIMATES:

None.

EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH:

Repealing R.61‑1 will have no effect on the environment and public health.

DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH IF THE REGULATION IS NOT IMPLEMENTED:

Repealing R.61‑1 will have no detrimental effect on the environment and public health.

**Statement of Rationale:**

Here below is the Statement of Rationale pursuant to S.C. Code Section 1‑23‑110(h):

The fund had originally been a scholarship program when the regulation was first adopted but was converted by statute to a loan fund in 1985; however, the regulation was never amended to conform to the amended statute. The General Assembly last funded the program in the 1988 Appropriations Act for the 1988‑1989 fiscal year. The last recipients completed their service obligations in 1996 following three years of residency and four years of service. In 1989, when the S.C. General Assembly ceased to fund the Medical and Dental Loan Fund, it established a Rural Physician Program to address the undersupply of clinicians in rural and underserved South Carolina communities. The new program is administered by the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium and fiscally managed by the Medical University of South Carolina.