

---

# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

---



**Prepared by:** Steve McCarthy, Senior Staff Attorney

February 7, 2024

**2023 Wisconsin Act 90**  
[2023 Senate Bill 706]

**Scholarships for Marquette  
University Dental Students**

### 2023 WISCONSIN ACT 90

2023 Wisconsin Act 90 modifies a scholarship awarded by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) so that it applies to students enrolled in the Marquette University School of Dentistry (MUSD).

Current law requires HEAB to establish a scholarship program for state residents who enter into an agreement with HEAB to practice in a health shortage area in this state upon graduation. HEAB may award an annual scholarship for each year of an eligible student's enrollment, up to four years, and the eligible student must agree to practice in a health shortage area for 18 months for each annual scholarship the student receives. If the student fails to meet this obligation, the student must repay an amount equal to the total dollar amount of annual scholarships awarded to the student multiplied by the student's "repayment liability percentage," which is further defined by current law.

The act makes changes to the scholarship program such that it applies only to students enrolled in MUSD who agree to practice dentistry in a dental health shortage area for 18 months for each annual scholarship received. The bill defines a "dental health shortage area" as an area that is federally designated as having a shortage of dental professionals, not including the counties of Brown, Dane, Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Waukesha.

HEAB may award an annual scholarship of \$30,000 per year for up to four years to no more than 15 MUSD students. A student who fails to meet his or her obligation to practice in a dental health shortage area for the requisite period must repay the scholarships in the manner required under current law.

The act also requires HEAB to provide MUSD \$350,000 annually for the development and operation of programs to support the recruitment and training of students in rural dentistry.

Lastly, the act specifies that it first applies to scholarships awarded in the 2024-25 academic year.

**Effective date:** February 2, 2024

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

SM:kms