

**(S.D.)-Legislature Entices Law Graduates Back To Rural Underserved Areas**

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 07/08/2013 08:23 AM

PIERRE, S.D. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - As a University of South Dakota law student, Sarah Larson didn't expect to be practicing in the small town of Gettysburg.

But her future husband, Michael, had a desire to move back to his hometown and get into the family business, so the couple settled into a small practice in the Potter County community.

The Larsons are the latest example of law school graduates making the leap to rural areas.

The state Legislature this year funded a pilot program giving 16 lawyers a little more than \$13,000 a year for five years to practice in a rural location currently underserved.

Of the state's more than 1,800 lawyers, 65 percent operate in just four cities - Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Pierre and Aberdeen.