

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Hospital improvement grants.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health and Social Services
Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public health and safety; requiring the
2 department of health to establish a magnet hospital grant
3 program and a critical access hospital grant program as
4 specified; providing grant criteria and deadlines;
5 providing for repayment of grants as specified; requiring
6 matching fund expenditure by grant recipients; granting
7 rulemaking authority; providing appropriations; and
8 providing for an effective date.

9

10 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

11

12 **Section 1.**

13

14 (a) The department of health shall establish a magnet
15 hospital grant program to support efforts by Wyoming
16 hospitals to reduce nursing shortages and improve patient

1 safety. The department shall award grants of up to two
2 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) to each of
3 three (3) hospitals in the state to assist in obtaining
4 magnet hospital certification through the American Nurses
5 Credentialing Center. The grants shall be awarded through
6 an open competitive process that is publicized among the
7 hospitals in the state. The department shall establish
8 application procedures and grant award criteria through
9 rule and regulation. Criteria shall include, but are not
10 limited to, the following:

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12 (i) The recipient hospital provides medical care
13 to patients qualified under the Medical Assistance and
14 Services Act, Title XVIII of the federal Social Security
15 Act and the child health insurance program;

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17 (ii) The grant application shall be accompanied
18 by a narrative that details how the hospital will achieve
19 magnet certification within five (5) years;

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21 (iii) The grant application shall include a
22 budget that specifies how grant funds will be expended;

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1 (iv) The applicant hospital shall demonstrate
2 that it could not afford to achieve magnet hospital
3 certification without the grant;

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5 (v) The grant application and accompanying
6 budget shall document that the hospital will match forty
7 percent (40%) of the grant award with in-kind services or
8 in-cash funds to be expended in achieving magnet hospital
9 certification.

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11 (b) The magnet hospital criteria shall be those
12 developed by the American Nurses Credentialing Center and
13 in effect on July 1, 2006. Any subsequent changes in the
14 magnet hospital certification program shall continue to
15 promote quality nursing practices, a quality nursing
16 working environment, and demonstrated improved outcomes for
17 patients. If subsequent changes in the magnet hospital
18 certification program do not reflect all of these elements,
19 the unexpended amount of grant funds shall be returned to
20 the department.

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22 (c) The grant award recipients shall achieve magnet
23 hospital status within five (5) years from the date of the
24 grant award. The department shall require periodic

1 reporting by the hospital to determine that progress is
2 being made in preparing and submitting a magnet hospital
3 application and in acquiring the certification. A hospital
4 that fails to meet the five (5) year requirement or make
5 progress toward acquiring the certification, as determined
6 by the department, shall repay the full grant amount to the
7 department if the failure occurs within one (1) year of the
8 grant award date or one-half (1/2) of the grant amount if
9 the failure occurs one (1) year or more after the grant
10 award date.

11

12 (d) The department may expend up to one hundred
13 thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) from the appropriation
14 provided in section 2 of this act to provide technical and
15 professional assistance to hospitals receiving the grants
16 in preparing a magnet hospital application and in making
17 the necessary changes in nursing practices and the working
18 environment to attain magnet hospital status. This
19 assistance may be contracted to a Wyoming hospital that has
20 previously prepared or submitted a magnet hospital
21 application or to the University of Wyoming Nightingale
22 Center.

23

1 **Section 2.** Eight hundred fifty thousand dollars
2 (\$850,000.00) is appropriated from the budget reserve
3 account to the department of health for grants to hospitals
4 as provided in section 1 of this act, and nine thousand
5 eight hundred dollars (\$9,800.00) is appropriated from the
6 general fund to the department of health to administer
7 these grants. Any unexpended funds, including any funds
8 returned by a hospital receiving a grant under this act,
9 shall be deposited in the general fund.

10

11 **Section 3.**

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13 (a) The department of health shall establish a
14 program to provide grants and technical assistance to
15 critical access hospitals for the promotion of quality
16 nursing practices, quality nursing working environments,
17 increased retention of nursing staff and demonstrated
18 improved outcomes for patients.

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20 (b) The department may contract with a third party
21 for the technical assistance to critical access hospitals
22 pursuant to this section.

23

1 (c) The department, following consultation with the
2 board of nursing, Wyoming hospital association and critical
3 access hospital network, shall promulgate rules and
4 regulations that include award criteria and application
5 procedures for grants pursuant to this section. The rules
6 shall provide that the grant application shall include a
7 commitment from the applicant hospital to match twenty
8 percent (20%) of the grant award with in-kind services or
9 in-cash funds to be expended with the grant funds.

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11 (d) Recipients of grants pursuant to this section
12 shall be required to report periodically to the department
13 regarding the use of grant funds and measurable results
14 obtained with those funds.

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16 **Section 4.** Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00)
17 is appropriated from the budget reserve account to the
18 department of health for grants to hospitals as provided in
19 Section 3 of this act, and six thousand two hundred dollars
20 (\$6,200.00) is appropriated from the general fund to the
21 department of health to administer those grants.

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1 **Section 5.** This act is effective July 1, 2006.

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(END)