

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0243

Physician recruitment grants.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Lubnau and Hammons and
Senator(s) Massie

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to health care services; providing a grant
2 program for physician recruitment; providing for rules and
3 regulations; providing an appropriation; and providing for
4 an effective date.

5

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

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-1-1001 is created to read:

9

10 ARTICLE 10

11 PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT GRANT PROGRAM

12

13 **35-1-1001. Physician recruitment grant program.**

14

15 (a) There is created the Wyoming physician
16 recruitment program administered by the department.

1

2 (b) There is created the Wyoming physician
3 recruitment account. Funds in the account are continuously
4 appropriated to the department and shall be used to provide
5 grants to hospitals for physician recruitment as provided
6 in this section.

7

8 (c) The department shall promulgate rules and
9 regulations to administer the program. The rules and
10 regulations shall include provisions for:

11

12 (i) Application forms for grants under the
13 program;

14

15 (ii) Criteria for grants under the program.
16 Grants may be provided under the following conditions:

17

18 (A) The physician shall be recruited to the
19 geographic area served by the hospital;

20

21 (B) The physician shall move his medical
22 practice at least twenty-five (25) miles or the physician's
23 new medical practice shall derive at least seventy-five
24 percent (75%) of its revenues from professional services

1 furnished to patients not seen or treated at his prior
2 medical practice during the preceding three (3) years;

3

4 (C) The recruitment conditions between the
5 hospital and the physician shall meet the conditions set
6 forth in 42 C.F.R. 411.357(e), as amended March 1, 2007;

7

8 (D) Recruitment of new physicians shall be
9 based on demonstrable need. Those hospitals demonstrating
10 the greatest need, in the discretion of the department
11 shall be given the highest priority in receiving grants
12 pursuant to this section;

13

14 (E) Recruitment incentives shall not be
15 offered for longer than two (2) years;

16

17 (F) All recruitment incentives shall be in
18 writing and shall be reported on federal income tax forms;

19

20 (G) The recruited physician shall agree to
21 provide medical services in the community to which he was
22 recruited for a period of not less than four (4) years or
23 he shall repay any monies granted under this section to the

1 state of Wyoming plus interest at the rate of ten percent
2 (10%) per annum; and

3

4 (H) The recruited physician shall agree to
5 provide medical care for not less than four (4) years in
6 underserved areas of the state and shall accept patients
7 qualified under the Medical Assistance and Services Act,
8 Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act and the
9 child health insurance program who seek medical care which
10 the health care provider is qualified to provide or he
11 shall repay any monies granted under this section to the
12 state of Wyoming plus interest at the rate of ten percent
13 (10%) per annum.

14

15 (iii) Criteria for costs that will be reimbursed
16 through grants. Costs reimbursed through grants under the
17 program may include:

18

19 (A) New income guarantees if there exists a
20 cap on total payments;

21

22 (B) Moving expenses and interview expenses;

23

1 (C) Subsidies for malpractice premiums,
2 support personnel and other practice support;

3

4 (D) Forgiveness of student loans provided
5 student loans are not forgiven through any other loan
6 repayment program and the physician guarantees at least
7 four (4) years service in the hospital's service area;

8

9 (E) Signing bonuses.

10

11 (iv) Reporting requirements for grant
12 recipients.

13

14 (d) As used in this section:

15

16 (i) "Department" means the department of health;

17

18 (ii) "Hospital" means a county memorial, rural
19 health care district or special hospital district formed
20 and licensed under the laws of the state;

21

22 (iii) "Physician" means an individual licensed
23 under the laws of this state to practice medicine;

24

1 (iv) "Program" means the Wyoming physician
2 recruitment grant program.

3

4 **Section 2.** W.S. 35-1-240(a) by creating a new
5 paragraph (xxii) is amended to read:

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7 **35-1-240. Powers and duties.**

8

9 (a) The department of health, through the state
10 health officer, or under his direction and supervision,
11 through the other employees of the department, shall have
12 and exercise the following powers and duties:

13

14 (xxii) Administer the Wyoming physician
15 recruitment grant program provided in W.S. 35-1-1001.

16

17 **Section 3.** There is appropriated seven hundred fifty
18 thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) from the general fund to the
19 Wyoming physician recruitment account created in section 1
20 of this act for purposes of this act.

21

22 **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2007.

23

24 (END)