

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0148

National guard medical recruitment and retention program.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Hallinan, Edwards, McOmie  
and Mercer and Senator(s) Hastert

## A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the national guard; creating the Wyoming  
2 national guard medical professional recruitment and  
3 retention program; providing payment of the annual WWAMI  
4 contract payment to qualifying WWAMI medical students as  
5 specified; providing a malpractice insurance premium  
6 reimbursement for national guard medical professionals as  
7 specified; providing restrictions; providing conditions for  
8 repayment of assistance received; granting rulemaking  
9 authority; providing definitions; providing a sunset date;  
10 requiring a report; providing an appropriation; and  
11 providing for an effective date.

12

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

14

15 **Section 1.** W.S. 19-9-701 through 19-9-707 are created  
16 to read:

1

2

## ARTICLE 7

3

## MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM

4

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19-9-701. National guard medical professional  
recruitment and retention program; administration of  
program.

8

9

(a) The Wyoming national guard medical professional  
recruitment and retention program is created to provide  
assistance to:

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(i) One (1) WWAMI student per academic year, not  
to exceed four (4) WWAMI students in the program at any  
given time, who agrees to serve in the Wyoming national  
guard as a medical professional for the period of time  
specified in W.S. 19-9-703(a)(i);

(ii) Qualified medical professionals actively  
serving in the Wyoming national guard for the reimbursement  
of medical malpractice insurance premiums as specified in  
W.S. 19-9-705.

1           (b) The program shall be administered by the adjutant  
2 general in accordance with the provisions of this article.  
3 The adjutant general shall promulgate rules for the  
4 administration of the program.

5

6           **19-9-702. Definitions.**

7

8           (a) As used in this article:

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10                   (i) "Program" means the national guard medical  
11 professional recruitment and retention program;

12

13                   (ii) "Qualified medical professional" means a  
14 physician or dentist licensed to practice his profession in  
15 Wyoming who is currently an officer in good standing in the  
16 Wyoming national guard or is currently fulfilling the  
17 requirements to become an officer in the Wyoming national  
18 guard;

19

20                   (iii) "WWAMI medical student" means a Wyoming  
21 resident who has been accepted, or is currently a medical  
22 student in good standing in the Wyoming, Washington,  
23 Alaska, Montana and Idaho regional medical program

1 affiliated with the University of Washington School of  
2 Medicine.

3

4 **19-9-703. Requirements for medical student**  
5 **recruitment program; assistance payments; report due.**

6

7 (a) Subject to legislative appropriation and in  
8 accordance with the provisions of this article, the  
9 adjutant general or his designee, may authorize the payment  
10 of the annual WWAMI contract payment for one (1) WWAMI  
11 student per academic year. To be eligible to participate  
12 in the program a WWAMI medical student shall:

13

14 (i) Agree in writing to serve in the active  
15 Wyoming national guard for at least eight (8) years after  
16 the completion of the WWAMI student's residency program.  
17 If the WWAMI student participates in the University of  
18 Wyoming family practice residency program the WWAMI  
19 student's service period may start upon entrance in the  
20 program upon approval by the adjutant general;

21

22 (ii) Agree in writing to complete basic military  
23 training or officer training within one (1) year of signing

1 the service agreement unless waived by the adjutant general  
2 for good cause shown;

3

4 (iii) Remain in good academic standing as  
5 determined by the administrators of the WWAMI program;

6

7 (iv) Be a citizen of the United States and a  
8 resident of the state of Wyoming;

9

10 (v) Agree in writing to fulfill all WWAMI  
11 obligations to the state of Wyoming as specified in the  
12 contract between the WWAMI medical student and the  
13 University of Wyoming; and

14

15 (vi) Agree in writing to practice medicine  
16 within the state of Wyoming for at least four (4) years  
17 after completion of a residency program.

18

19 (b) In the event that more than one (1) WWAMI medical  
20 student applies for the program per academic year, the  
21 adjutant general, in consultation with the Wyoming army  
22 national guard state surgeon and the Wyoming air national  
23 guard state surgeon, shall select the applicant who shall  
24 enter the program based upon:

1

2 (i) The applicants' academic records;

3

4 (ii) Personal essays; and

5

6 (iii) Interviews with the applicants.

7

8 (c) WWAMI medical students meeting the requirements  
9 of subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall receive  
10 payment for the full cost of the annual WWAMI contract  
11 payment for required courses and studies necessary to  
12 complete a doctor of medicine degree within the WWAMI  
13 program for the four (4) years the student is in the WWAMI  
14 program as approved by the University of Wyoming board of  
15 trustees.

16

17 (d) Payment shall be made directly to the University  
18 of Wyoming after the University of Washington School of  
19 Medicine certifies that the medical student has been  
20 accepted and registered in the WWAMI program.

21

22 (e) The adjutant general shall report to the joint  
23 transportation, highway and military affairs interim  
24 committee by October 1, 2008 and on October 1 annually

1 thereafter concerning the state of the medical recruitment  
2 program. The report shall explicitly state the progress of  
3 the WWAMI medical students through school and their service  
4 requirements.

5  
6 **19-9-704. Restrictions; repayment of medical student**  
7 **benefits.**

8  
9 (a) Program participation and annual WWAMI contract  
10 payments shall be subject to the following additional  
11 restrictions and qualifications:

12  
13 (i) Participation shall be limited to the  
14 earlier of:

15  
16 (A) A period of six (6) years from the date  
17 of the participant's initial enrollment in the program; or

18  
19 (B) The medical student's completion of his  
20 doctor of medicine degree.

21  
22 (ii) Any member receiving annual WWAMI contract  
23 payments under the program who fails to matriculate through

1 the WWAMI program shall repay all annual WWAMI contract  
2 payments granted under the program;

3

4 (iii) A medical student shall be ineligible for  
5 annual WWAMI contract payments under the program until the  
6 adjutant general has determined that the member meets the  
7 minimum requirements for satisfactory membership in the  
8 Wyoming national guard;

9

10 (iv) Any member who has received assistance  
11 under the program and who fails to complete the eight (8)  
12 year commitment required by W.S. 19-9-703(a)(i) shall repay  
13 all annual WWAMI contract payments received under the  
14 program;

15

16 (v) Any member who has received assistance under  
17 the program and who fails to complete the four (4) year  
18 commitment to practice medicine in the state of Wyoming as  
19 required by W.S. 19-9-703(a)(vi) shall repay all annual  
20 WWAMI contract payments under the program.

21

22 (b) The adjutant general may promulgate rules waiving  
23 repayment otherwise required under subsection (a) of this  
24 section for cases where the debt is not collectible. The



1 adjutant general shall immediately transmit all repayments  
2 of benefits under the plan to the state treasurer for  
3 deposit in the state general fund.

4

5 **19-9-705. National guard medical professional**  
6 **recruitment fund; creation; source of funds.**

7

8 There is created the national guard medical professional  
9 recruitment fund. The fund shall be administered by the  
10 adjutant general and shall consist of monies appropriated  
11 or designated to the fund by law. The monies shall be  
12 transmitted to the state treasurer for credit to the trust  
13 fund and shall be invested by the state treasurer as  
14 authorized under W.S. 9-4-711 in a manner to obtain the  
15 highest return possible consistent with the preservation of  
16 the corpus. Any interest earned on the investment or  
17 deposit of monies in the fund shall also remain in the fund  
18 and shall not be credited to the general fund. All monies  
19 in the fund that are not expended, encumbered or obligated  
20 shall revert to the general fund in accordance with the  
21 provisions of W.S. 19-9-706 on June 30, 2016.

22

23 **19-9-706. Sunset.**

24

1 W.S. 19-9-701 through 19-9-705 are repealed effective June  
2 30, 2016.

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4 **19-9-707. Requirements for malpractice insurance**  
5 **premium reimbursements.**

6

7 (a) Subject to legislative appropriation and in  
8 accordance with the provisions of this section, the  
9 adjutant general or his designee, may authorize the  
10 reimbursement of medical and dental malpractice premiums as  
11 specified by this section for qualifying national guard  
12 medical professionals. The maximum medical malpractice  
13 premium reimbursement under the program shall be the lesser  
14 of fifty percent (50%) of the total cost of malpractice  
15 insurance premiums paid by the qualified member during a  
16 calendar year, or fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) per  
17 calendar year for each year the service contract required  
18 by paragraph (ii) of this subsection is in effect. To be  
19 eligible to participate in the program members shall:

20

21 (i) Be a resident of the state of Wyoming;

22

23 (ii) Sign a new service contract after July 1,  
24 2008 in which the member agrees to serve in the Wyoming

1 National Guard as a medical professional for at least four  
2 (4) years;

3  
4 (iii) Be licensed as a physician or dentist  
5 within the state of Wyoming as required by W.S. 33-26-301  
6 or 33-15-108, respectively.

7  
8 (b) Any member receiving benefits under this section  
9 who fails to meet the requirements of subsection (a) shall  
10 repay all medical malpractice insurance premium  
11 reimbursements received under the program.

12  
13 (c) The adjutant general may promulgate rules waiving  
14 repayment otherwise required under subsection (a) of this  
15 section for cases where the debt is not collectible. The  
16 adjutant general shall immediately transmit all repayments  
17 of benefits under the plan to the state treasurer for  
18 deposit in the state general fund.

19  
20 **Section 2.**

21  
22 (a) There is appropriated two hundred fifty-six  
23 thousand dollars (\$256,000.00) from the general fund to the  
24 Wyoming military department for the fiscal year beginning

1 July 1, 2008, to implement the national guard WWAMI medical  
2 student recruitment program under W.S. 19-9-701 through  
3 19-9-706. The funds appropriated under this subsection  
4 shall be expended to meet the annual WWAMI contract payment  
5 of WWAMI medical students enrolled in the Wyoming national  
6 guard medical recruitment program and shall not be expended  
7 for any other purpose. Any funds appropriated under this  
8 subsection that are not expended, encumbered or obligated  
9 at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the general  
10 fund as provided by W.S. 9-4-207 on June 30, 2010. Funds  
11 appropriated under this subsection that are not expended,  
12 encumbered or obligated after June 30, 2016 shall revert to  
13 the budget reserve account.

14

15 (b) There is appropriated six hundred forty thousand  
16 dollars (\$640,000.00) from the general fund to the Wyoming  
17 military department for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
18 2008, to implement the medical malpractice program under  
19 W.S. 19-9-707. This appropriation shall be for the period  
20 beginning with the effective date of this act and ending  
21 June 30, 2012. This appropriation shall only be expended  
22 for the purposes specified in this subsection.  
23 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this  
24 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any

1 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds  
2 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided  
3 by law on June 30, 2012. This appropriation shall be  
4 included in the Wyoming Military Department's 2012-2014  
5 standard biennial budget request.

6

7 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2008.

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9

(END)