

SENATE FILE NO. SF0035

Physician and dentist recruitment.

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

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to health care services; providing a grant  
2 program for physician recruitment; providing grant  
3 eligibility and payment conditions; granting rulemaking  
4 authority; repealing a local matching funds requirement for  
5 the physician and dentist loan repayment program; providing  
6 appropriations; authorizing a position; and providing for  
7 an effective date.

8

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

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-1-1101 is created to read:

12

13 ARTICLE 11

14 PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT GRANT PROGRAM

15

16 **35-1-1101. Physician recruitment grant program.**

1

2 (a) There is created the Wyoming physician  
3 recruitment program administered by the department.

4

5 (b) There is created the Wyoming physician  
6 recruitment account. Funds in the account are continuously  
7 appropriated to the department to provide grants for  
8 physician recruitment. Up to ten percent (10%) of the  
9 funds may be used to advertise the physician recruitment  
10 program.

11

12 (c) In July of each year, the department shall  
13 solicit physician recruitment applications from hospitals,  
14 physicians and others seeking to recruit physicians. The  
15 applications shall be prioritized by need based on  
16 geographic area, then by medical need within the geographic  
17 area. A priority shall be given to recruitment to private  
18 physician practice. In September of each year, the  
19 department shall issue award letters to the persons or  
20 entities receiving grant authorizations. The grant  
21 authorizations shall authorize the person or entity  
22 receiving it, for a period of one (1) year, to make a firm  
23 offer of recruitment incorporating the benefits authorized  
24 by this section and W.S. 9-2-118 to a candidate,

1 conditioned upon Wyoming licensure and the candidate's  
2 signed written agreement to the conditions of this section  
3 and W.S. 9-2-118.

4

5 (d) The department shall promulgate rules and  
6 regulations to administer the program, including provisions  
7 for:

8

9 (i) Application forms for grants under the  
10 program;

11

12 (ii) Termination of grants and full or partial  
13 repayment if a physician fails to comply with the  
14 conditions of this section, rules and regulations of the  
15 department adopted pursuant to this section or the terms of  
16 the written incentive agreement;

17

18 (iii) Reporting requirements for grant  
19 recipients.

20

21 (e) Grants provided under this section shall be  
22 subject to the following:

23

1           (i) The physician shall be recruited to a  
2 stipulated geographic area;

3

4           (ii) A practitioner shall relocate his practice  
5 to the state of Wyoming from outside of the state to be  
6 eligible for a grant. Practitioners relocating to the  
7 state of Wyoming to become employed by the state or by the  
8 United States shall not be eligible for grants. This  
9 paragraph shall not apply to physicians taking a family  
10 practice residency in the state or physicians employed by  
11 the United States department of defense;

12

13           (iii) The recruitment conditions between the  
14 hospital and the physician shall meet the conditions set  
15 forth in 42 C.F.R. 411.357(e), as amended September 5,  
16 2007;

17

18           (iv) Recruitment of new physicians shall be  
19 based on demonstrable need. Those recruiting persons or  
20 entities demonstrating the greatest need, in the discretion  
21 of the department shall be given the highest priority in  
22 receiving grants pursuant to this section;

23

1           (v) All recruitment incentives shall be in  
2 writing and shall be reported on federal income tax forms;

3

4           (vi) The recruited physician shall agree to  
5 provide medical services in the community to which he was  
6 recruited for a period of not less than two (2) years or he  
7 shall repay any monies granted under this section to the  
8 state of Wyoming plus interest at the rate of ten percent  
9 (10%) per annum;

10

11           (vii) The recruited physician shall agree to  
12 provide medical care for not less than two (2) years in  
13 underserved areas of the state and shall accept patients  
14 qualified under the Medical Assistance and Services Act,  
15 Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act and the  
16 child health insurance program who seek medical care which  
17 the health care provider is qualified to provide or he  
18 shall repay any monies granted under this section to the  
19 state of Wyoming plus interest at the rate of ten percent  
20 (10%) per annum;

21

22           (viii) Costs reimbursed through grants under the  
23 program may include:

24

1                   (A) As incentive to the physician  
2 recruitment process, recruitment actual costs, up to ten  
3 thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) per recruited physician, may  
4 be reimbursed to the successful recruiting person or entity  
5 paying those costs;

6

7                   (B) Relocation expenses, not to exceed  
8 twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00);

9

10                  (C) Malpractice insurance premium for two  
11 (2) years, not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00)  
12 per year;

13

14                  (D) Signing bonuses not to exceed thirty  
15 thousand dollars (\$30,000.00).

16

17                  (ix) Agreements between the department and  
18 physicians pursuant to W.S. 9-2-118 may be coordinated with  
19 grants and incorporated into grant agreements pursuant to  
20 this section; and

21

22                  (x) The department in administering the program  
23 shall attempt to issue at least one-half (1/2) of all

1 grants for physicians whose practice in Wyoming is in  
2 connection with a for-profit business enterprise.

3  
4 (f) As used in this section:

5  
6 (i) "Department" means the department of health;

7  
8 (ii) "Hospital" means a county memorial, rural  
9 health care district or special hospital district formed  
10 and licensed under the laws of the state;

11  
12 (iii) "Physician" means an individual licensed  
13 or eligible to be licensed under the laws of this state to  
14 practice medicine;

15  
16 (iv) "Program" means the Wyoming physician  
17 recruitment grant program;

18  
19 (v) "Recruiting entity" means a hospital,  
20 physician, clinic or other appropriate local organization.

21  
22 **Section 2.** W.S. 9-2-118(a)(ii) and 35-1-240(a) by  
23 creating a new paragraph (xxii) are amended to read:

1           **9-2-118. Physician and dentist loan repayment**  
2 **program.**

3

4           (a) The department is authorized to enter into  
5 agreements with physicians and dentists who have graduated  
6 from accredited residency programs to provide health care  
7 in this state. The agreements shall:

8

9           (ii) Provide that the physician or dentist shall  
10 be repaid up to one hundred percent (100%) of the amount of  
11 outstanding educational loans the physician or dentist has  
12 acquired as a direct result of undergraduate or  
13 postgraduate educational training directly related to  
14 providing medical or dental services, not to exceed thirty  
15 thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) per year, ~~including the~~  
16 ~~matching funds specified in subsection (d) of this section,~~  
17 in exchange for practicing his profession under the terms  
18 of this section;

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20           **35-1-240. Powers and duties.**

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22           (a) The department of health, through the state  
23 health officer, or under his direction and supervision,



1 through the other employees of the department, shall have  
2 and exercise the following powers and duties:

3  
4 (xxii) Administer the Wyoming physician  
5 recruitment grant program provided in W.S. 35-1-1101.

6  
7 **Section 3.** W.S. 9-2-118(d) is repealed.

8  
9 **Section 4.**

10  
11 (a) There is appropriated eight hundred thousand  
12 dollars (\$800,000.00) from the general fund to the  
13 physician recruitment account created by W.S. 35-1-1101.  
14 This appropriation shall be for the period beginning with  
15 the effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2010.  
16 This appropriation shall only be expended for the purpose  
17 of the physician recruitment program created by W.S.  
18 35-1-1101. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this  
19 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any  
20 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds  
21 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided  
22 by law on July 1, 2010. This appropriation shall be  
23 included in the department's 2011-2012 standard biennial  
24 budget request.

1

2       (b) There is appropriated ninety thousand dollars  
3   (\$90,000.00) from the general fund and one (1) half-time  
4   position is authorized to the department of health. This  
5   appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the  
6   effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2010. This  
7   appropriation shall only be expended for the purpose of  
8   administering the physician recruitment program created by  
9   W.S. 35-1-1101. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
10   this appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for  
11   any other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds  
12   remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided  
13   by law on July 1, 2010. This appropriation shall be  
14   included in the department's 2011-2012 standard biennial  
15   budget request.

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17       **Section 5.** This act is effective immediately upon  
18   completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
19   as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
20   Constitution.

21

22

(END)