

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Provider recruitment grant program-repeal.

Sponsored by: Joint Appropriations Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the provider recruitment grant program;
2 repealing the health care provider recruitment grant
3 program; reverting funds from the Wyoming provider
4 recruitment account; making conforming amendments; and
5 providing for an effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-2-117(a)(iii)(intro) is amended to
10 read:

11

12 **9-2-117. Office of rural health created; duties.**

13

1 (a) The office of rural health is created within the
2 department of health. The office shall:

3
4 (iii) Contract, if necessary, with other
5 entities to carry out duties prescribed under this section,
6 and to conduct an active and ongoing recruitment program
7 for physicians and other health care professionals, subject
8 to the availability of funds, and to engage in the
9 following activities:

10
11 **Section 2.** W.S. 35-1-240(a)(xxii) and 35-1-1101 are
12 repealed.

13 *****
14 **STAFF COMMENT**

15 The following italicized language would be repealed by section 2 of this act:

16
17 **35-1-240. Powers and duties.**

18 (a) The department of health, through the state health officer, or under his
19 direction and supervision, through the other employees of the department, shall have and
20 exercise the following powers and duties:

21 (xxii) *Administer the Wyoming physician recruitment grant program*
22 *provided in W.S. 35-1-1101;*

23
24 **35-1-1101. Provider recruitment grant program.**

25 (a) *There is created the Wyoming provider recruitment program administered by*
26 *the department.*

27 (b) *There is created the Wyoming provider recruitment account. Funds in the*
28 *account are continuously appropriated to the department to provide grants for provider*
29 *recruitment. Up to ten percent (10%) of the funds may be used to advertise the provider*
30 *recruitment program.*

31 (c) *The department shall solicit provider recruitment applications from hospitals,*
32 *physicians and others seeking to recruit providers. The applications shall be prioritized*
33 *by need based on geographic area, then by medical need within the geographic area.*

1 *Priority shall be given to recruitment of private practice providers. The department shall*
2 *issue award letters to the persons or entities receiving grant authorizations within sixty*
3 *(60) days after the close of an application period. The grant authorizations shall*
4 *authorize the person or entity receiving it, for a period of one (1) year, to make a firm*
5 *offer of recruitment incorporating the benefits authorized by this section to a candidate,*
6 *conditioned upon Wyoming licensure and the candidate's signed written agreement to the*
7 *conditions of this section.*

8 *(d) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations to administer the*
9 *program, including provisions for:*

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

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

14 *(iii) Reporting requirements for grant recipients.*

15 *(e) Grants provided under this section shall be subject to the following:*

16 *(i) The provider shall be recruited to a stipulated geographic area;*

17 *(ii) A provider shall relocate his practice to the state of Wyoming from*
18 *outside of the state to be eligible for a grant. Providers relocating to the state of*
19 *Wyoming to become employed by the state or by the United States shall not be eligible for*
20 *grants. The requirement to relocate pursuant to this paragraph shall not apply to*
21 *providers recruited from a family practice residency in the state or recruitment of*
22 *providers employed by the United States department of defense;*

23 *(iii) The recruitment conditions between a hospital and a physician shall*
24 *meet the conditions set forth in 42 C.F.R. 411.357(e), as amended;*

25 *(iv) Recruitment of new providers shall be based on demonstrable need.*
26 *Those recruiting persons or entities demonstrating the greatest need, in the discretion of*
27 *the department shall be given the highest priority in receiving grants pursuant to this*
28 *section;*

29 *(v) All recruitment incentives shall be in writing and shall be reported on*
30 *federal income tax forms;*

31 *(vi) The recruited provider shall agree to provide medical services in the*
32 *community to which he was recruited for a period of not less than two (2) years or the*
33 *recruiting entity shall repay any monies granted under subparagraphs (e)(viii)(B)*
34 *through (D) of this section to the state of Wyoming plus interest at the rate of ten percent*
35 *(10%) per annum;*

36 *(vii) The recruited provider shall agree to provide medical care for not*
37 *less than two (2) years in underserved areas of the state and shall accept patients*
38 *qualified under the Medical Assistance and Services Act, Title XVIII of the federal Social*
39 *Security Act and the child health insurance program who seek medical care which the*
40 *health care provider is qualified to provide or the recruiting entity shall repay any*
41 *monies granted under this section to the state of Wyoming plus interest at the rate of ten*
42 *percent (10%) per annum;*

43 *(viii) Costs reimbursed through grants under the program shall be*
44 *documented by the provider as required by the department and may include:*

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

4 (B) Relocation expenses, not to exceed twenty thousand dollars
5 (\$20,000.00);

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

8 (D) Signing bonuses not to exceed thirty thousand dollars
9 (\$30,000.00).

10 (ix) Repealed by Laws 2015, ch. 89, § 2.

11 (x) Repealed by Laws 2015, ch. 89, § 2.

12 (f) As used in this section:

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

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

16 (iii) "Physician" means an individual licensed or eligible to be licensed
17 under the laws of this state to practice medicine;

18 (iv) "Program" means the Wyoming provider recruitment grant program;

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

21 (vi) "Provider" means an individual licensed or eligible to be licensed in
22 a health care profession under title 33 of the Wyoming statutes.

23 *****

24
25 **Section 3.** Any unexpended and unobligated funds in
26 the Wyoming provider recruitment account created by W.S.
27 35-1-1101(b) and as repealed by this act shall revert to
28 the budget reserve account on the effective date of this
29 act.

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31 **Section 4.** This act is effective April 1, 2021.

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33 (END)