

WORKING DRAFT

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Wyoming state hospital psychiatrists-recruitment.

Sponsored by: Select Committee on Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Services

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the department of health; authorizing
2 the Wyoming state hospital, with assistance from the office
3 of rural health, to recruit and hire psychiatrists as
4 specified; authorizing educational loan forgiveness;
5 authorizing the office of rural health to administer the
6 loan forgiveness program; requiring rulemaking; conforming
7 a provision; providing an appropriation; and providing for
8 an effective date.

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

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12 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-2-125 is created to read:

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14 **9-2-118. Psychiatrist loan repayment program.**

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1 (a) The Wyoming state hospital is authorized, with
2 assistance from the office of rural health, to hire and
3 enter into agreements with psychiatrists who have graduated
4 from accredited residency programs to provide health care
5 in this state. A psychiatrist hired under this section
6 shall be an employee of the Wyoming state hospital. The
7 agreement between the state hospital and the psychiatrist
8 shall:

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10 (i) Provide for the psychiatrist to practice
11 psychiatric medicine in a community of the state as
12 directed by the state hospital. A psychiatrist shall agree
13 to provide psychiatric medical care for the period of the
14 contract in underserved areas of the state to patients in
15 need of acute psychiatric care which the psychiatrist is
16 qualified to provide. The state hospital shall determine
17 which areas of the state are underserved;

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19 (ii) Provide that the psychiatrist shall be
20 repaid up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) of
21 the amount of outstanding educational loans the
22 psychiatrist has acquired after completing undergraduate
23 programs and as a direct result of medical school training

1 in exchange for practicing his profession under the terms
2 of this section;

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4 (iii) Require the psychiatrist to practice for a
5 minimum of four (4) years under the agreement;

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7 (iv) Contain other provisions the state hospital
8 deems necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purposes
9 of this section.

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11 (b) The Wyoming state hospital, in consultation with
12 the office of rural health, shall promulgate rules
13 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. In
14 carrying out this section the state hospital shall assess
15 health care needs of the state by geographic areas and
16 practice specialties and shall prioritize and enter into
17 agreements under this section accordingly.

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19 **Section 2.** W.S. 9-2-117(a)(v) is amended to read:

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21 **9-2-117. Office of rural health care created; duties.**

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23 (a) The office of rural health care is created within
24 the department of health. The office shall:

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Section 3.

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(v) Administer the loan repayment programs created by W.S. 9-2-118, ~~and~~ 9-2-119 and 9-2-125;

(a) There is appropriated from the general fund to the department of health for the biennium beginning July 1, 2006, three million two hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$3,255,000.00), or as much thereof as necessary, to recruit, hire and pay salaries for not more than seven psychiatrists under this act, to be expended as follows:

(i) One hundred five thousand dollars (\$105,000.00) for recruitment and relocation expenses;

(ii) Two million four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$2,450,000.00) for salaries; and

(ii) Seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000.00) for the educational loan forgiveness program authorized by this act.

1 (b) The department of health is authorized seven (7)
2 full-time equivalent positions to hire psychiatrists to
3 work for the Wyoming state hospital under this act.

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5 **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2006.

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(END)