

**WORKING DRAFT**

HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Magnet hospital grants.

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

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public health and safety; requiring the  
2 department of health to establish a magnet hospital grant  
3 program as specified; providing grant criteria and  
4 deadlines; providing for repayment of grants as specified;  
5 requiring matching fund expenditure by grant recipients;  
6 providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective  
7 date.

8

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

10

11 **Section 1.**

12

13 (a) The department of health shall establish a magnet  
14 hospital grant program to support efforts by Wyoming  
15 hospitals to reduce nursing shortages and improve patient

1 safety. The department shall award grants of up to two  
2 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) to each of  
3 three hospitals in the state to assist in obtaining magnet  
4 hospital certification through the American Nurses  
5 Credentialing Center. The grants shall be awarded through  
6 an open competitive process that is publicized among the  
7 publicly owned hospitals in the state. The department  
8 shall establish application procedures and grant award  
9 criteria through rule and regulation. Criteria shall  
10 include, but are not limited to, the following:

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12 (i) The recipient hospital is operated by the  
13 state, a county or a special hospital district;

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15 (ii) The grant application shall be accompanied  
16 by a narrative that details how the hospital will achieve  
17 magnet certification within five years;

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19 (iii) The grant application shall include a  
20 budget that specifies how grant funds will be expended;

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22 (iv) The applicant hospital shall demonstrate  
23 that it could not afford to achieve magnet hospital  
24 certification without the grant;

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2 (iv) The grant application and accompanying  
3 budget shall document that the hospital will match forty  
4 percent (40%) of the grant award with in-kind services or  
5 in-cash funds to be expended in achieving magnet hospital  
6 certification. For critical access hospitals, the matching  
7 requirement shall be twenty percent (20%).

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9 (c) The magnet hospital criteria shall be those  
10 developed by the American Nurses Credentialing Center and  
11 in effect on July 1, 2006. Any subsequent changes in the  
12 magnet hospital certification program shall continue to  
13 promote quality nursing practices, a quality nursing  
14 working environment, and demonstrated improved outcomes for  
15 patients. If subsequent changes in the magnet hospital  
16 certification program do not reflect all of these elements,  
17 the unexpended amount of grant funds shall be returned to  
18 the department.

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20 (d) The grant award recipients shall achieve magnet  
21 hospital status within five years from the date of the  
22 grant award. The department shall require periodic  
23 reporting by the hospital to determine that progress is  
24 being made in preparing and submitting a magnet hospital

1 application and in acquiring the certification. A hospital  
2 that fails to meet the five year requirement or make  
3 progress toward acquiring the certification, as determined  
4 by the department, shall repay the full grant amount to the  
5 department if the failure occurs within one (1) year of the  
6 grant award date or one-half (1/2) of the grant amount if  
7 the failure occurs one (1) year or more after the grant  
8 award date.

9  
10 (e) The department may expend up to one hundred  
11 thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) from the appropriation  
12 provided in Section 2 of this act to provide technical and  
13 professional assistance to the hospitals receiving the  
14 grants in preparing a magnet hospital application and in  
15 making the necessary changes in nursing practices and the  
16 working environment to attain magnet hospital status. This  
17 assistance may be contracted to a Wyoming hospital that has  
18 previously prepared or submitted a magnet hospital  
19 application or to the University of Wyoming Nightingale  
20 Center.

21  
22 **Section 2.** Eight hundred fifty thousand dollars  
23 (\$850,000.00) is appropriated from the budget reserve  
24 account to the department of health for purposes of this

1 act. Any unexpended funds, including any funds returned by  
2 a hospital receiving a grant under this section, shall be  
3 deposited in the general fund.

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5 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2006.

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(END)