

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0243

Physician recruitment grants.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Lubnau and Hammons and  
Senator(s) Massie

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to health care services; providing a grant  
2 program for physician recruitment; providing for rules and  
3 regulations; providing appropriations; and providing for an  
4 effective date.

5

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

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-1-1001 is created to read:

9

10

ARTICLE 10

11

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT GRANT PROGRAM

12

13 **35-1-1001. Physician recruitment grant program.**

14

15 (a) There is created the Wyoming physician  
16 recruitment program administered by the department.

1

2 (b) There is created the Wyoming physician  
3 recruitment account. Funds in the account are continuously  
4 appropriated to the department and shall be used to provide  
5 grants to hospitals for physician recruitment as provided  
6 in this section.

7

8 (c) The department shall promulgate rules and  
9 regulations to administer the program. The rules and  
10 regulations shall include provisions for:

11

12 (i) Application forms for grants under the  
13 program;

14

15 (ii) Criteria for grants under the program.  
16 Grants may be provided under the following conditions:

17

18 (A) The physician shall be recruited to the  
19 geographic area served by the hospital;

20

21 (B) The physician shall move his medical  
22 practice at least twenty-five (25) miles or the physician's  
23 new medical practice shall derive at least seventy-five  
24 percent (75%) of its revenues from professional services

1 furnished to patients not seen or treated at his prior  
2 medical practice during the preceding three (3) years;

3

4 (C) The recruitment conditions between the  
5 hospital and the physician shall meet the conditions set  
6 forth in 42 C.F.R. 411.357(e), as amended March 1, 2007;

7

8 (D) Recruitment of new physicians shall be  
9 based on demonstrable need. Those hospitals demonstrating  
10 the greatest need, in the discretion of the department  
11 shall be given the highest priority in receiving grants  
12 pursuant to this section;

13

14 (E) Recruitment incentives shall not be  
15 offered for longer than two (2) years;

16

17 (F) All recruitment incentives shall be in  
18 writing and shall be reported on federal income tax forms;

19

20 (G) The recruited physician shall agree to  
21 provide medical services in the community to which he was  
22 recruited for a period of not less than four (4) years or  
23 he shall repay any monies granted under this section to the

1 state of Wyoming plus interest at the rate of ten percent  
2 (10%) per annum;

3

4 (H) The recruited physician shall agree to  
5 provide medical care for not less than four (4) years in  
6 underserved areas of the state and shall accept patients  
7 qualified under the Medical Assistance and Services Act,  
8 Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act and the  
9 child health insurance program who seek medical care which  
10 the health care provider is qualified to provide or he  
11 shall repay any monies granted under this section to the  
12 state of Wyoming plus interest at the rate of ten percent  
13 (10%) per annum; and

14

15 (J) Hospitals shall make recruitment  
16 contracts equally available to physicians recruited to the  
17 geographic area served by the hospital who are independent  
18 of the hospital.

19

20 (iii) Criteria for costs that will be reimbursed  
21 through grants. Costs reimbursed through grants under the  
22 program may include:

23

1                   (A) New income guarantees if there exists a  
2 cap on total payments;

3

4                   (B) Moving expenses and interview expenses;

5

6                   (C) Subsidies for malpractice premiums,  
7 support personnel and other practice support;

8

9                   (D) Forgiveness of student loans provided  
10 student loans are not forgiven through any other loan  
11 repayment program and the physician guarantees at least  
12 four (4) years service in the hospital's service area;

13

14                   (E) Signing bonuses.

15

16                   (iv) Reporting requirements for grant  
17 recipients.

18

19                   (d) As used in this section:

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

22

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

4  
5           (iii) "Physician" means an individual licensed,  
6 or eligible to be licensed under the laws of this state to  
7 practice medicine;

8  
9           (iv) "Program" means the Wyoming physician  
10 recruitment grant program.

11

12           **Section 2.** W.S. 35-1-240(a) by creating a new  
13 paragraph (xxii) is amended to read:

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15           **35-1-240. Powers and duties.**

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

21

22                   (xxii) Administer the Wyoming physician  
23 recruitment grant program provided in W.S. 35-1-1001.

24

1           **Section 3.**

2

3           (a) There is appropriated seven hundred fifty  
4 thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) from the general fund to the  
5 Wyoming physician recruitment account created in section 1  
6 of this act for purposes of this act.

7

8           (b) There is appropriated sixty-two thousand dollars  
9 (\$62,000.00) from the general fund to the department of  
10 health to fund one (1) at-will contract employee for  
11 purposes of this act.

12

13           (c) The appropriations under this section shall be  
14 one-time funding and shall not be included in the  
15 department of health's 2009-2010 biennial budget request.

16

17           **Section 4.** 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)