

CS HB 78 () "Incentives for Certain Medical Providers"
Sponsor: Representative Herron

"An Act establishing a loan repayment program and employment incentive program for certain health care professionals employed in the state; and providing for an effective date."

Changes from 27-LS0147\D to ""\X

All changes proposed in amendment D.1, offered by Representative Keller on 3/17/2011, are incorporated:

- Addition at \X page3 line2 - "for deposit in the general fund";
- Addition at \X Page3 line11 - "from money appropriated for the purpose"
- Addition of new subsection (i) at \X page4 line8 - "(i) Direct Incentive payments, loan repayments, and matching payments shall be made with funds appropriated by the legislature for that purpose."
- Addition of new subsection (c) at \X page5 line31 - "If insufficient funds are appropriated in a fiscal year, the department shall prorate payments based on the number of approved participants in the program."

At \X page3 line4, "not more than half" is replaced with "a portion". This gives the Commissioner, in consultation with the program's advisory body, to determine matching payments ranging from zero-100% for each individual site, depending on the site's ability to pay.

On \X page5, loans eligible for repayment by the state under the Health Care Professions Loan Repayment and Incentive Program are defined.

- **At page5 line2, new subsection (b):** "A loan is eligible for repayment under the program if the loan was issued by a government or commercial entity for the payment of the actual costs of tuition and other reasonable educational and living expenses related to the undergraduate or graduate education of a participant who is eligible under AS 18.29.035 and that resulted in an degree required for employment as a tier I or tier II health care professional under the program."
- **At page5 line17, new subsection (e):** "A loan or interest on a loan is not eligible for repayment under this section if the loan or interest is
 - (1) to be repaid by another source, including another loan repayment or forgiveness program or an employer-sponsored repayment program;
 - (2) consolidated with a loan that is not eligible for repayment; or
 - (3) refinanced.

On \X pages 6 and 7, eligible site determination and prioritization is clarified:

- **Eligible site determination.** At \X page7 line4, the word "score" is added. This directs DHSS, in the needs assessment process, to assign each site a score indicating its level of need. This score, as well as employment statistics, will be factors in site eligibility determination.
- **Prioritization of eligible sites.** At \X page6 line21, the words "the needs assessment for the site" are added to allow DHSS to prioritize eligible sites based on the site's needs assessment score, remoteness, the percentage of patients treated at the site who are underserved, or a combination of these three factors.

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