

E & R AMENDMENTS TO LB 242

1 1. Strike the original sections and all amendments
2 thereto and insert the following new sections:

3 "Section 1. Section 71-5661, Reissue Revised Statutes of
4 Nebraska, is amended to read:

5 71-5661. (1) The financial incentives provided by the
6 Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act shall consist
7 of ~~(1)~~ (a) student loans to eligible students for attendance at an
8 eligible school as determined pursuant to section 71-5662 and ~~(2)~~
9 (b) the repayment of qualified educational debts owed by eligible
10 health professionals as determined pursuant to such section. Funds
11 for such incentives shall be appropriated from the General Fund to
12 the department for such purposes.

13 ~~There is hereby created in the department the~~ (2) The
14 Rural Health Professional Incentive Fund into which is created.
15 Money credited pursuant to section 2 of this act, payments received
16 pursuant to section 71-5666, and appropriations from the General
17 Fund shall be ~~credited~~ remitted to the State Treasurer for credit
18 to the fund. Any money in the fund available for investment shall
19 be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the
20 Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds
21 Investment Act.

22 Sec. 2. On and after the effective date of this act, any
23 money remaining in the Rural Health Opportunities Loan Pool Fund
24 and any money remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to such

1 fund shall be credited by the State Treasurer to the Rural Health
2 Professional Incentive Fund created under section 71-5661 and used
3 to carry out the purposes of the Rural Health Systems and
4 Professional Incentive Act.

5 Sec. 3. Section 71-5663, Revised Statutes Supplement,
6 1998, is amended to read:

7 71-5663. (1) The amount of financial assistance provided
8 through student loans pursuant to the Rural Health Systems and
9 Professional Incentive Act shall be limited to ten thousand dollars
10 for each recipient for each academic year and shall not exceed
11 forty thousand dollars per medical student or twenty thousand
12 dollars per physician assistant student.

13 (2) The amount of financial assistance provided by the
14 state through loan repayments pursuant to the act (a) for
15 physicians and clinical psychologists shall be limited to ten
16 thousand dollars per recipient per year of full-time practice in a
17 designated health profession shortage area and shall not exceed
18 thirty thousand dollars per recipient and (b) for physician
19 assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, dentists,
20 physical therapists, occupational therapists, and master's level
21 mental health professionals shall be limited to five thousand
22 dollars per recipient per year of full-time practice in a
23 designated health profession shortage area and shall not exceed
24 fifteen thousand dollars per recipient.

25 Sec. 4. Section 71-5665, Revised Statutes Supplement,
26 1998, is amended to read:

27 71-5665. The commission shall periodically designate

1 health profession shortage areas within the state for the following
2 professions: Medicine and surgery, physician assistants' practice,
3 nursing practice, nurse practitioners' practice, clinical
4 psychology, and master's level mental health practice. The
5 commission shall also periodically designate separate health
6 profession shortage areas for each of the following professions:
7 Pharmacy, dentistry, physical therapy, and occupational therapy.
8 In making such designations the commission shall consider, after
9 consultation with other appropriate agencies concerned with health
10 services and with appropriate professional organizations, among
11 other factors:

12 (1) The latest reliable statistical data available
13 regarding the number of health professionals practicing in an area
14 and the population to be served by such practitioners;

15 (2) Inaccessibility of health care services to residents
16 of an area;

17 (3) Particular local health problems;

18 (4) Age or incapacity of local practitioners rendering
19 services; and

20 (5) Demographic trends in an area both past and future.

21 Sec. 5. Section 71-5668, Revised Statutes Supplement,
22 1998, is amended to read:

23 71-5668. Each loan repayment recipient shall execute an
24 agreement with the department and a local entity. Such agreement
25 shall include, at a minimum, the following terms:

26 (1) The loan repayment recipient agrees to practice his
27 or her profession, and a physician also agrees to practice an

1 approved specialty, in a designated health profession shortage area
2 for at least three years and to accept medicaid patients in his or
3 her practice;

4 (2) In consideration of the agreement by the recipient,
5 the State of Nebraska and a local entity within the designated
6 health profession shortage area will provide equal funding for the
7 repayment of the recipient's qualified educational debts, in
8 amounts up to ten thousand dollars per year per recipient for
9 physicians and clinical psychologists and up to five thousand
10 dollars per year per recipient for physician assistants, nurses,
11 nurse practitioners, pharmacists, dentists, physical therapists,
12 occupational therapists, and master's level mental health
13 professionals toward qualified educational debts for up to three
14 years. The department shall make payments directly to the
15 recipient; and

16 (3) If the loan repayment recipient discontinues practice
17 in the shortage area prior to completion of the three-year
18 requirement, the recipient shall repay to the state one hundred
19 twenty-five percent of the total amount of funds provided to the
20 recipient for loan repayment. Upon repayment by the recipient to
21 the department, the department shall reimburse the local entity its
22 share of the funds.

23 Sec. 6. Original section 71-5661, Reissue Revised
24 Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 71-5663, 71-5665, and 71-5668,
25 Revised Statutes Supplement, 1998, are repealed.

26 Sec. 7. The following sections are outright repealed:
27 Sections 71-5671 to 71-5677 and 71-5679, Reissue Revised Statutes

AM7102
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1 of Nebraska, and section 71-5678, Revised Statutes Supplement,
2 1998.".

3 2. On page 1, strike beginning with "the" in line 1
4 through the third comma in line 6 and insert "rural health
5 education; to amend section 71-5661, Reissue Revised Statutes of
6 Nebraska, and sections 71-5663, 71-5665, and 71-5668, Revised
7 Statutes Supplement, 1998; to change provisions relating to the
8 Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act; to provide for
9 repayments; to eliminate the Rural Health Opportunities Loan Act;
10 to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to
11 outright repeal sections 71-5671 to 71-5677".