
HOUSE BILL 1080

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Harris, Senn, Appleton, Gregerson, Cody, Caldier, and Pollet

Prefiled 01/07/15. Read first time 01/12/15. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the health professional loan repayment and
2 scholarship program fund; adding a new section to chapter 28B.115
3 RCW; and making appropriations.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.115
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds that improved access to comprehensive
8 health care services is vital to achieve health equity and an
9 increased quality of healthy life for the people of Washington. Many
10 underserved communities facing financial barriers, including those
11 related to providers' health education loan debt and disparate
12 salaries, struggle to attract and retain well-trained health
13 professionals. Health professional shortage areas also face
14 additional health care delivery challenges, including patient income
15 or transportation barriers and lower provider service reimbursements.

16 The health professional loan repayment and scholarship program
17 fund assists underserved communities in recruiting and retaining
18 qualified health professionals. The incentive program also encourages
19 interested and academically prepared health care students and
20 professionals to consider practice in shortage areas. The legislature
21 finds that interested students who are encouraged to explore the

1 benefits and unique professional challenges presented in rural health
2 practice are more likely to establish community roots and remain in
3 the area in which they are trained. Providing underserved communities
4 additional resources to recruit qualified health professionals
5 reinforces the state's commitment to improve access to comprehensive
6 health care for all persons in Washington.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The sum of four million dollars, or as
8 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general
9 fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, for the purposes of
10 restoring funding to the health professional loan repayment and
11 scholarship program fund.

12 (2) The sum of four million dollars, or as much thereof as may be
13 necessary, is appropriated from the general fund for the fiscal year
14 ending June 30, 2017, for the purposes of restoring funding to the
15 health professional loan repayment and scholarship program fund.

16 (3) The amounts appropriated in this section shall be deposited
17 into the health professional loan repayment and scholarship program
18 fund.

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