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SENATE BILL 5772

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, King, Holmquist, Sheldon, Franklin, Honeyford, and Keiser

Read first time 01/30/09. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to addressing the shortage of health care  
2 professionals in underserved areas; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the shortage  
5 of health care professionals practicing in rural and medically  
6 underserved areas of the state has created a severe public health and  
7 safety problem. If unaddressed, this problem is expected to worsen  
8 with health care reform because an increased demand for primary care  
9 services will contribute to these shortages.

10 (2) The legislature further finds that the medical training  
11 programs at universities within Washington state are important and  
12 well-respected resources to the people of the state in the training of  
13 health care professionals. Currently, only a small proportion of  
14 medical school and other health professional graduates are Washington  
15 residents who serve in certain parts of this state.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of health, in concert with a  
17 medical school located in central Washington, shall prepare a health  
18 professional shortage plan that accomplishes the following:

1 (1) Identifies specific activities that the university shall pursue  
2 to partner with existing health care professional programs specifically  
3 situated in eastern Washington to increase the number of Washington  
4 residents serving as health care professionals in rural and medically  
5 underserved areas of the state, including establishing a goal that  
6 assures that no less than fifty percent of health care professionals  
7 who enter these programs are Washington state residents at the time of  
8 matriculation and will be willing to serve, to the extent possible, in  
9 Washington state rural and underserved communities.

10 (2) Establishes the goal of assuring that by the year 2013 the  
11 annual number of graduates entering rural or medically underserved  
12 practice shall be increased by forty percent over a baseline period  
13 from 2004 through 2009.

14 (3) Establishes an additional goal of making operational by 2011 at  
15 least two additional primary care programs and one emergency medicine  
16 residency program within Washington state in geographic areas  
17 identified by the plan as underserved. The geographic areas identified  
18 by the plan as being underserved by primary care physicians shall be  
19 consistent with any such similar designations made in the health  
20 personnel research plan previously authorized by the legislature.

21 (4) Establishes, with the cooperation of existing community and  
22 migrant health clinics in rural or medically underserved areas of the  
23 state, three primary care residency training tracks. Furthermore, the  
24 primary care shortage plan shall provide that these training tracks  
25 shall be a joint American osteopathic association and American medical  
26 association approved training site, coordinated with an accredited  
27 college of osteopathic medicine established within the state of  
28 Washington with oversight by the higher education coordinating board  
29 for the purpose of training primary care physicians for the state of  
30 Washington. Such a proposed joint accredited training track will have  
31 at least fifty percent of its residency positions in osteopathic  
32 medicine.

33 (5) Implements the plan, to include the expansion of the primary  
34 care and emergency medicine residency network, with appropriations for  
35 the department of health.

36 (6) The plan shall be submitted to the appropriate committees of

1 the legislature no later than December 1, 2009.

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