



SPONSOR: Sen. Poore & Sen. S. McBride & Rep. Minor-Brown
Sens. Gay, Hansen, Hoffner, Mantzavinos, Walsh,
Wilson; Reps. Baumbach, Griffith, Harris, Heffernan,
K. Johnson, Morrison

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 98

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE DELAWARE HEALTH CARE
COMMISSION HEALTH CARE PROVIDER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 Section 1. Amend § 9903, Title 16 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underline and
2 deletions as shown by strikethrough as follows:

3 § 9903. Duties and authority of the Commission.

4 (j) The Commission shall be responsible for the administration of a Health Care Provider Loan Repayment
5 Program (HCPLRP). The HCPLRP must be administered consistent with all of the following guidelines:

6 (1) Subject to the appropriation of sufficient funds, the Commission may award education loan repayment
7 grants to qualifying clinicians of up to \$50,000 per year for a maximum of 4 years.

8 (2) Eligible sites may apply to the Commission on behalf of their affiliated, qualifying clinicians for
9 education loan repayment grants from the HCPLRP. Sites eligible to apply for education loan repayment grants on
10 behalf of their qualifying clinicians include all of the following sites located in underserved areas or areas of need:

- 11 a. Hospital primary care practices.
- 12 b. Private practices.
- 13 c. Federally-qualified health centers.
- 14 d. Community outpatient facilities.
- 15 e. Community mental health facilities.
- 16 f. Free medical clinics.
- 17 g. School-based health centers.

18 (3) Health care provider loan repayment grants may only be awarded by the Commission to sites that
19 accept Medicare and Medicaid participants, and may not include concierge practices. To be eligible for a health
20 care provider loan repayment grant, private practice sites and eligible practitioners must participate in the
21 Voluntary Initiative Program administered by the Department of Health and Social Services' Health Care

22 Connection. Health care provider loan repayment grants to hospital sites must be subject to a dollar-for-dollar
23 match by the applicant hospital.

24 (4) The award of health care provider loan repayment grants must be limited to the recruitment and
25 retention of new primary care and dental providers in ambulatory and outpatient settings. For purposes of this
26 paragraph, a new primary care and dental provider means any of the following providers who have completed
27 graduate education within ~~6 months~~ 2 years of the application for a health care provider loan repayment grant
28 being submitted:

29 a. Physicians practicing family medicine (including osteopathic general practice), internal
30 medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/ gynecology, geriatrics, and psychiatry.

31 b. Nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, clinical nurse specialists, PhD Doctors of
32 Psychology, Licensed Professional Counselors of Mental Health, Masters of Psychology, Licensed
33 Clinical Social Workers, and ~~physicians~~ physician assistants practicing adult medicine, family medicine,
34 pediatrics, psychiatry/mental health, geriatrics, and women's health.

35 c. Dental clinicians possessing a DDS or DMD and practicing general, pediatric, or public health
36 dentistry.

37 (5) The Commission may grant priority consideration to applications submitted on behalf of primary care
38 and dental clinicians that are DIMER or DIDER-participating students or participants in Delaware-based residency
39 programs and may annually spend up to \$150,000 on marketing and infrastructure to attract clinicians to apply to
40 the HCPLRP.

41 (6) The Commission shall issue an annual report detailing the number of clinicians applying for and
42 awarded health care provider loan repayment grants, including information regarding the number of applicants and
43 grant recipients by practice area and site location.

SYNOPSIS

This Act allows Dental Clinicians possessing a DDS or DMDS to participate in the Health Care Provider Loan Repayment grant program. The Act also extends the time in which providers may apply for a Health Care Provider Loan Repayment grant from six months to two years following completion of their graduate education.

Author: Senator Poore