



SPONSOR: Rep. Bentz & Rep. Shupe & Sen. Poore & Rep. Bush & Rep. Minor-Brown & Sen. S. McBride
Reps. Baumbach, Brady, Briggs King, Dorsey Walker, Griffith, Heffernan, K. Johnson, Lambert, Longhurst, Lynn, Morrison, Postles, Ramone, D. Short, Michael Smith, Wilson-Anton, Yearick; Sens. Hansen, Lawson, Lopez, Paradee, Pettyjohn, Pinkney, Sokola, Sturgeon, Townsend

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 48

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE DELAWARE HEALTH CARE COMMISSION.

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

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

§ 9903. Duties and authority of the Commission.

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

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

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

a. Hospital primary care practices.

b. Private practices.

c. Federally Qualified Health Centers.

d. Community outpatient facilities.

e. Community mental health facilities.

f. Free medical clinics.

(3) Health Care Provider Loan Repayment grants may only be awarded by the Commission to sites that accept Medicare and Medicaid participants, and may not include concierge practices. To be eligible for a Health Care Provider Loan Repayment grant, private practice sites must participate in the Voluntary Initiative Program

administered by the Department of Health and Social Services' Health Care Connection. Health Care Provider Loan Repayment grants to hospital sites must be subject to a dollar-for-dollar match by the applicant hospital.

(4) The award of Health Care Provider Loan Repayment grants must be limited to the recruitment and retention of new primary care providers in ambulatory and outpatient settings. For purposes of this paragraph, a new primary care provider means any of the following providers who have completed graduate education within six months of the application for a Health Care Provider Loan Repayment grant being submitted:

a. Physicians practicing Family Medicine (including osteopathic general practice), Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Geriatrics, and Psychiatry.

b. Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, Clinical Nurse Specialists, and Physicians Assistants practicing Adult Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry/Mental Health, Geriatrics, and Women's Health.

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

(6) The Commission shall issue an annual report detailing the number of clinicians applying for and awarded Health Care Provider Loan Repayment grants, including information regarding the number of applicants and grant recipients by practice area and site location.

Section 2. Notwithstanding any provision of this Act or law to the contrary, disbursement of education loan repayment grants from the Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program shall be contingent upon an initial, one-time contribution to the program, in an amount equal to the Fiscal Year 21 appropriation of State funds up to a maximum of \$1 million, from Delaware health insurers.

SYNOPSIS

This Act establishes a Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program for new primary care providers to be administered by the Delaware Health Care Commission. Under the loan repayment program, the Health Care Commission may award education loan repayment grants to new primary care providers of up to \$50,000 per year for a maximum of 4 years. Priority consideration may be given to DIMER-participating students and participants in Delaware based residency programs. Sites eligible to apply for grants on behalf of their new primary care providers must be located in underserved areas or areas of need and must accept Medicare and Medicaid participants. Grants to hospital sites must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the applicant hospital and the disbursement of grants from the program is contingent upon an initial, one-time contribution to the Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program, in an amount Fiscal Year 21 appropriation of State funds up to a maximum of \$1 million, from Delaware health insurers. This Act also provides that the Delaware Healthcare Commission may award Health Care Provider Repayment grants on a prorated annual basis.