

By Representative Arnold

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Florida Health Services  
3           Corps; amending s. 381.0302, F.S.; including  
4           psychology among the health care professions  
5           covered by the program; providing an effective  
6           date.

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8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10           Section 1. Subsections (1), (4), (5), and (7) and  
11           paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 381.0302, Florida  
12           Statutes, are amended to read:

13           381.0302 Florida Health Services Corps.--

14           (1) To encourage qualified health care ~~medical~~  
15           professionals to practice in underserved locations where there  
16           are shortages of such personnel, the Legislature establishes  
17           the Florida Health Services Corps.

18           (2) As used in this section, the term:

19           (b) "Florida Health Services Corps" means a program  
20           authorized by this section which:

21           1. Offers scholarships to allopathic, osteopathic,  
22           psychology,chiropractic, podiatric, dental, physician  
23           assistant, and nursing students, and loan repayment assistance  
24           and travel and relocation expenses to allopathic and  
25           osteopathic residents and physicians, psychologists and  
26           psychology residents,chiropractors, podiatrists, nurse  
27           practitioners, dentists, and physician assistants, in return  
28           for service in a public health care program or in a medically  
29           underserved area.

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1           2. Offers membership on a voluntary basis to  
2 physicians and other health care personnel who provide  
3 uncompensated care.

4           (4) Corps members shall be supervised by the State  
5 Health Officer, or his or her physician or psychologist  
6 designee, for the purpose of practice guidelines, continuing  
7 education, and other matters pertaining to professional  
8 conduct.

9           (5) The department may award scholarships to students  
10 studying medicine, osteopathic medicine, psychology,  
11 chiropractic, podiatric, nursing, or dentistry.

12           (a) The program shall require a student who receives a  
13 scholarship to accept an assignment in a public health care  
14 program or work in a specific community located in a medically  
15 underserved area upon completion of primary care training.  
16 The department shall determine assignments. If a practitioner  
17 is assigned to a medically underserved area, the practitioner  
18 must treat Medicaid patients and other patients with low  
19 incomes.

20           (b) An eligible student must be pursuing a full-time  
21 course of study in:

22           1. Allopathic or osteopathic medicine, including  
23 physician assistants;

24           2. Dentistry;

25           3. Podiatric medicine;

26           4. Nursing, including registered nurses, nurse  
27 midwives, and other nurse practitioners; ~~or~~

28           5. Chiropractic medicine; or

29           6. Counseling or clinical psychology.

30           (c) In selecting students to participate in the  
31 scholarship program, priority shall be given to students who

1 indicate a desire to practice a primary care specialty in a  
2 medically underserved area after their obligation is completed  
3 and who indicate an intent to practice health care ~~medical~~  
4 specialties for which the department has a need.

5 (d) Scholarship assistance shall consist of  
6 reimbursement for tuition and other educational costs such as  
7 books, supplies, equipment, transportation, and monthly living  
8 expense stipends. The department shall pay the same amount  
9 for living expense stipends as is paid by the National Health  
10 Services Corps. Each monthly living expense stipend shall be  
11 for a 12-month period beginning with the first month of each  
12 school year in which the student is a participant. The  
13 department may reimburse a participant for books, supplies,  
14 and equipment based on average costs incurred by participants  
15 for these items. The department shall prescribe, by rule,  
16 eligible expenses for reimbursement and allowable amounts.

17 (e) For an allopathic or osteopathic medical student,  
18 enrollment in the corps may begin in the second year of  
19 medical school or in any year thereafter. For a nursing  
20 student or other student, enrollment may occur in any year.

21 (f) For a student who receives scholarship assistance,  
22 participation in the corps after completion of training shall  
23 be 1 year for each school year of scholarship assistance, up  
24 to a maximum of 3 years. The period of obligated service  
25 shall begin when the participant is assigned by the department  
26 to a public health program or to a medically underserved area.

27 (7) The financial penalty for noncompliance with  
28 participation requirements for persons who have received  
29 financial payments under subsection (5) or subsection (6)  
30 shall be determined in the same manner as in the National  
31 Health Services Corps scholarship program. In addition,

1 noncompliance with participation requirements shall also  
2 result in ineligibility for professional licensure or renewal  
3 of licensure under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460,  
4 chapter 464, chapter 465, ~~or~~ chapter 466, or chapter 490. For  
5 a participant who is unable to participate for reasons of  
6 disability, the penalty is the actual amount of financial  
7 assistance provided to the participant. Financial penalties  
8 shall be deposited in the Florida Health Services Corps Trust  
9 Fund and shall be used to provide additional scholarship and  
10 financial assistance.

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

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16 Includes psychology among the health care professions  
17 covered by the Florida Health Services Corps.

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