

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to an area health education center
 3 network; amending s. 381.0402, F.S.; revising provisions
 4 relating to the operation of the network; requiring the
 5 Department of Health, in cooperation with state medical
 6 schools, to maintain and evaluate the network; providing
 7 for increased training and education opportunities in
 8 medically underserved areas; providing that the network
 9 not discriminate among enrollees; authorizing the network
 10 to target high-risk medically needy population groups;
 11 providing an effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. Section 381.0402, Florida Statutes, is amended
 16 to read:

17 381.0402 Area health education center network.--

18 (1) The department, in cooperation with state ~~the state-~~
 19 ~~approved~~ medical schools approved to form an area health
 20 education center network in this state, shall maintain and
 21 evaluate ~~organize~~ an area health education center network
 22 focused ~~based on earlier medically indigent demonstration~~
 23 ~~projects and shall evaluate the impact of each network~~ on
 24 improving access to services by persons who are medically
 25 underserved. The network shall serve as ~~be~~ a catalyst for the
 26 primary care training of health professionals by increasing
 27 training ~~through increased opportunities for training~~ in
 28 medically underserved areas, increasing access to primary care

29 services, providing health workforce recruitment, enhancing the
 30 quality of care, and addressing current and emerging public
 31 health issues.

32 (2)(1) The department shall contract with state-approved
 33 medical schools to assist in funding the an area health
 34 education center network which links the provision of primary
 35 care services to medically underserved populations ~~low-income~~
 36 ~~persons~~ with the education of:

37 (a) Medical students, interns, and residents. The network
 38 shall:

39 ~~(a) Be coordinated with and under contract with the state-~~
 40 ~~approved medical schools, which shall be responsible for the~~
 41 ~~elinical training and supervision.~~

42 1.(b) Divide the state into service areas with each state-
 43 approved medical school coordinating the recruitment ~~recruiting~~,
 44 training, and retention of medical students within its assigned
 45 area.

46 2.(d) Use ~~current~~ community resources such as county
 47 health departments, federally funded migrant and community
 48 health primary care centers, and ~~or~~ other primary health care
 49 providers as ~~community-based~~ sites for training medical
 50 students, interns, and residents.

51 3.(e) Use a multidisciplinary approach with appropriate
 52 medical supervision.

53 (b) Health professions students. The network shall:

54 1. Facilitate the recruitment, training, and retention of
 55 health professions students within service areas.

56 2. Use community resources such as county health
57 departments, federally funded migrant and community health
58 centers, and other primary health care providers as sites for
59 training health professions students.

60 3. Use a multidisciplinary approach with appropriate
61 supervision.

62 (c) Health providers serving medically underserved
63 populations. The network shall:

64 1. Assist providers in medically underserved areas and
65 other safety net providers in remaining current in their fields
66 through a variety of community resource initiatives.

67 2. Strengthen the state's health care safety net by
68 enhancing services and increasing access to care in medically
69 underserved areas.

70 3. Provide other services such as library and information
71 resources, continuing professional education, technical
72 assistance, and other support services for providers serving in
73 medically underserved areas.

74 ~~(3)(2)~~ The department shall establish criteria and
75 procedures for quality assurance, performance evaluations,
76 periodic audits, and other appropriate safeguards for the
77 network.

78 ~~(4)(3)~~ The department shall make every effort to assure
79 that the network does ~~participating medical schools do~~ not
80 discriminate among enrollees with respect to age, race, sex, or
81 health status. However, the network ~~such schools~~ may target
82 high-risk medically needy population groups.

HB 901

2005

83 (5)~~(4)~~ The department may use no more than 5 percent of
84 the annual appropriation for administering and evaluating the
85 network.

86 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.