

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Health Care General Committee recommends the following:

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3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to an area health education center
7 network; amending s. 381.0402, F.S.; revising provisions
8 relating to the operation of the network; requiring the
9 Department of Health, in cooperation with state medical
10 schools, to maintain and evaluate the network; providing
11 for increased training and education opportunities in
12 medically underserved areas; providing that the network
13 not discriminate among enrollees; authorizing the network
14 to target high-risk medically needy population groups;
15 amending s. 381.0405, F.S.; providing that the Office of
16 Rural Health is responsible for state coordination of
17 federal rural hospital and rural health care grant
18 programs; deleting obsolete provisions; creating s.
19 381.0409, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Health to
20 coordinate with the Federal Government in carrying out
21 certain activities relating to the recruitment and
22 placement of health practitioners in medically underserved
23 areas; providing an effective date.

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

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

381.0402 Area health education center network.--

(1) The department, in cooperation with ~~the state-approved~~ medical schools located in this state that form the area health education center network in this state, shall maintain and evaluate ~~organize~~ an area health education center network focused based on earlier medically indigent demonstration projects and shall evaluate the impact of each network on improving access to health services by persons who are medically underserved. The network shall serve as ~~be~~ a catalyst for the primary care training of health professionals by increasing through increased opportunities for training in medically underserved areas, increasing access to primary care services, providing health workforce recruitment, enhancing the quality of health care, and addressing current and emerging public health issues.

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

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

51 ~~(a) Be coordinated with and under contract with the state-~~
 52 ~~approved medical schools, which shall be responsible for the~~
 53 ~~clinical training and supervision.~~

54 1.(b) Divide the state into service areas within the
 55 network for the purpose of ~~with each state-approved medical~~
 56 ~~school~~ coordinating the recruitment ~~recruiting~~, training, and
 57 retention of medical students within its assigned area.

58 2.(d) Use current ~~current~~ community resources such as county
 59 health departments, federally funded migrant and community
 60 health ~~primary care~~ centers, and ~~or~~ other primary health care
 61 providers as ~~community-based~~ sites for training medical
 62 students, interns, and residents.

63 3.(e) Use a multidisciplinary approach with appropriate
 64 medical supervision.

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

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

68 2. Use community resources such as county health
 69 departments, federally funded migrant and community health
 70 centers, and other primary health care providers as sites for
 71 training health professions students.

72 3. Use a multidisciplinary approach with appropriate
 73 supervision.

74 (c) Health providers serving medically underserved
 75 populations. The network shall:

76 1. Assist providers in medically underserved areas and
 77 other safety net providers in remaining current in their fields
 78 through a variety of community resource initiatives.

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79 2. Strengthen the state's health care safety net by
80 enhancing services and increasing access to care in medically
81 underserved areas.

82 3. Provide other services such as library and information
83 resources, continuing professional education, technical
84 assistance, and other support services for providers serving in
85 medically underserved areas.

86 ~~(3)(2)~~ The department shall establish criteria and
87 procedures for quality assurance, performance evaluations,
88 periodic audits, and other appropriate safeguards for the
89 network.

90 ~~(4)(3)~~ The department shall make every effort to assure
91 that the network does ~~participating medical schools do~~ not
92 discriminate among enrollees with respect to age, race, sex, or
93 health status. However, the network ~~such schools~~ may target
94 high-risk medically needy population groups.

95 ~~(5)(4)~~ The department may use no more than 5 percent of
96 the annual appropriation for administering and evaluating the
97 network.

98 Section 2. Paragraph (f) of subsection (4) of section
99 381.0405, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

100 381.0405 Office of Rural Health.--

101 (4) COORDINATION.--The office shall:

102 (f) Assume responsibility for state coordination of ~~the~~
103 ~~Rural Hospital Transition Grant Program, the Essential Access~~
104 ~~Community Hospital Program, and other~~ federal rural hospital and
105 rural health care grant programs.

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106 Section 3. Section 381.0409, Florida Statutes, is created
107 to read:

108 381.0409 Coordination with federal health professional
109 recruitment and placement programs.--The department may
110 coordinate with the Federal Government to designate health
111 professional shortage areas and medically underserved areas, to
112 recommend foreign physicians for visa waivers, to document
113 health professionals working in the public interest, and to
114 place health care professionals in medically underserved areas
115 using federally funded recruitment incentive programs.

116 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.