

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to physician workforce assessment and
 3 development; creating s. 381.4018, F.S.; providing
 4 legislative intent; creating the Office of Physician
 5 Workforce Assessment and Development within the Department
 6 of Health; proving a purpose; providing functions of the
 7 office; providing an effective date.

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

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 11 Section 1. Section 381.4018, Florida Statutes, is created
 12 to read:

13 381.4018 Office of Physician Workforce Assessment and
 14 Development.--

15 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Legislature recognizes that
 16 physician workforce planning is an essential component in
 17 ensuring that there is an adequate and appropriate supply of
 18 well-trained physicians to meet the state's future healthcare
 19 service needs as both the general population and elderly
 20 population of the state increase. The Legislature finds that
 21 issues to consider relative to the assessment of physician
 22 workforce need may include physician practice status; specialty
 23 mix; geographic distribution; demographic information,
 24 including, but not limited to, age, gender, race, and cultural
 25 considerations; and meeting the needs of current or projected
 26 medically underserved areas in the state. Long-term strategic
 27 planning is essential, as the period of time from the time of
 28 entering medical school to completion of graduate medical

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29 education may range from 7 to 10 years, or longer. The
30 Legislature recognizes that strategies to provide for a well-
31 trained supply of physicians must include ensuring the
32 availability of quality medical schools and graduate medical
33 education capacity in the state as well as utilizing new or
34 existing state or federal programs that might provide incentives
35 for physicians to practice in needed specialties and in
36 underserved areas in a manner that addresses projected physician
37 manpower needs.

38 (2) CREATION; PURPOSE.--The Office of Physician Workforce
39 Assessment and Development is created in the Department of
40 Health and shall serve as a coordinating and strategic planning
41 body to actively assess the state's current and future physician
42 workforce needs and shall work with multiple stakeholders to
43 develop strategies and alternatives to address the state's
44 current and projected physician workforce needs.

45 (3) GENERAL FUNCTIONS.--The Office of Physician Workforce
46 Assessment and Development shall maximize the utilization of
47 existing programs under the jurisdiction of the department and
48 other state agencies; coordinate among governmental and
49 nongovernmental stakeholders and resources to determine a state
50 strategic plan; and assess implementation of such strategic plan
51 to:

52 (a) Monitor, evaluate, and report on the supply and
53 distribution of physicians licensed under chapters 458 and 459.
54 The department shall maintain a database to serve as the
55 official statewide source of valid, objective, and reliable data
56 on the physician workforce.

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57 (b) Develop a model and quantify, on an ongoing basis, the
58 adequacy of the state's current and future physician workforce,
59 as reliable physician workforce data becomes available. Such
60 model shall consider the following factors: demographics,
61 physician practice status, place of education and training,
62 generational changes, population growth, economic indicators,
63 and issues relating to the channeling of students into medical
64 education.

65 (c) Develop and recommend strategies to determine whether
66 availability of qualified state medical school applicants who
67 might become competent practicing physicians in the state will
68 be sufficient to meet medical school capacity of the state's
69 medical schools. If appropriate, the Office of Physician
70 Workforce Assessment and Development, working with
71 representatives of appropriate governmental and nongovernmental
72 entities, shall develop strategies and recommendations and
73 identify best-practice programs that introduce health care as a
74 profession and strengthen skills needed for medical school
75 admission for elementary, middle, and high school students, and
76 improve premedical education at the K-12 and college level to
77 increase the state's potential pool of medical students.

78 (d) Assess strategies to ensure that graduates from the
79 state's public and private allopathic and osteopathic medical
80 schools are adequate to meet physician workforce needs, based on
81 the analysis of the physician workforce data, and strategies to
82 ensure that the state's medical schools are adequately funded to
83 provide a high quality medical education to students in a manner

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84 that recognizes the uniqueness of each of the state's new and
85 existing medical schools.

86 (e) Pursue strategies and policies to create, expand, and
87 maintain graduate medical education positions in the state,
88 based on the analysis of the physician workforce data. Such
89 strategies and policies shall consider the impact of federal
90 funding limitations on the expansion and creation of graduate
91 medical education positions and shall develop options to address
92 such federal funding limitations. Options to provide direct
93 state funding for graduate medical education positions shall be
94 considered in a manner that addresses requirements and needs
95 relative to accreditation of graduate medical education
96 programs. Funding for residency positions should be targeted to
97 address needed physician specialty areas, rural and physician
98 shortage areas, areas of ongoing critical need, and otherwise
99 address the physician workforce needs of the state, based on the
100 analysis of ongoing physician workforce data.

101 (f) Develop strategies to maximize federal and state
102 programs that provide for the use of incentives to attract
103 physicians to the state or retain physicians in the state in
104 order to meet the state's physician workforce needs. Such
105 strategies should explore and maximize federal-state
106 partnerships available to provide for incentives for physicians
107 to practice in federally designated shortage areas. Strategies
108 shall also consider the use of state programs, such as the
109 Florida Health Service Corps established pursuant to s. 381.0302
110 and the Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment
111 Program pursuant to s. 1009.65, that provide for education loan

112 repayment or loan forgiveness to provide physicians monetary
 113 incentives to relocate to underserved areas of the state.

114 (g) Coordinate and enhance activities relative to
 115 physician workforce needs, undergraduate medical education, and
 116 graduate medical education provided by the Office of Medical
 117 Quality Assurance, the Community Hospital Education Program and
 118 Graduate Medical Education Committee established pursuant to s.
 119 381.0403, the area health education center network established
 120 pursuant to s. 381.0402, and other offices and programs within
 121 the Department of Health as deemed by the secretary.

122 (h) Work in conjunction with and act as a coordinating
 123 body for governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders to
 124 address matters relating to the state's physician workforce
 125 assessment and development for the purpose of ensuring an
 126 adequate supply of well-trained physicians to meet the state's
 127 future needs. Such governmental stakeholders shall include, but
 128 may not be limited to, the secretaries or designees of the
 129 Department of Health, Department of Education, and Agency for
 130 Healthcare Administration, the Chancellor or designee of the
 131 Board of Governors, and, at the discretion of the department,
 132 other representatives of state and local agencies involved in
 133 the assessment, education, training, or provision of the state's
 134 current or future physician workforce. Other stakeholders shall
 135 include, but may not be limited to, organizations representing
 136 the state's public and private allopathic and osteopathic
 137 medical schools; organizations representing hospitals and other
 138 healthcare-providing institutions, particularly those that
 139 currently provide or have an interest in providing accredited

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140 medical education and graduate medical education to medical
141 students and medical residents in the state; organizations
142 representing allopathic and osteopathic practicing physicians;
143 and, at the discretion of the department, representatives of
144 other organizations or entities involved in the assessment,
145 education, training, or provision of the state's current or
146 future physician workforce.

147 (i) Serve as a state liaison with other states and federal
148 agencies and programs to enhance resources available to the
149 state's physician workforce and medical education continuum.

150 (j) Act as a clearinghouse for collecting and
151 disseminating information of physician workforce and medical
152 education continuum issues in the state.

153 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.