

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; providing a purpose; providing functions of the  
 7           office; requiring the department to collect physician  
 8           workforce data; providing rulemaking authority; providing  
 9           a contingent effective date.

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

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13           Section 1. Section 381.4018, Florida Statutes, is created  
 14 to read:

15           381.4018 Office of Physician Workforce Assessment and  
 16 Development.--

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

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

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

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

54 (a) Monitor, evaluate, and report on the supply and  
55 distribution of physicians licensed under chapters 458 and 459.  
56 The department shall maintain a database to serve as the

57 official statewide source of valid, objective, and reliable data  
58 on the physician workforce.

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

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

80 (d) Assess strategies to ensure that graduates from the  
81 state's public and private allopathic and osteopathic medical  
82 schools are adequate to meet physician workforce needs, based on  
83 the analysis of the physician workforce data, and strategies to  
84 ensure that the state's medical schools are adequately funded to

85 provide a high quality medical education to students in a manner  
86 that recognizes the uniqueness of each of the state's new and  
87 existing medical schools.

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

103 (f) Develop strategies to maximize federal and state  
104 programs that provide for the use of incentives to attract  
105 physicians to the state or retain physicians in the state in  
106 order to meet the state's physician workforce needs. Such  
107 strategies should explore and maximize federal-state  
108 partnerships available to provide for incentives for physicians  
109 to practice in federally designated shortage areas. Strategies  
110 shall also consider the use of state programs, such as the  
111 Florida Health Services Corps established pursuant to s.  
112 381.0302 and the Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan

113 Repayment Program pursuant to s. 1009.65, that provide for  
114 education loan repayment or loan forgiveness to provide  
115 physicians monetary incentives to relocate to underserved areas  
116 of the state.

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

125 (h) Monitor, evaluate, and quantify on an ongoing basis  
126 the availability of critical physician services statewide and by  
127 geographic area. Such critical physician services shall include,  
128 but are not limited to, availability of and trends relating to  
129 obstetric care and services, particularly delivery of babies;  
130 radiological services, particularly performance of mammograms  
131 and breast-imaging services; physician specialty services for  
132 hospital emergency departments and trauma centers; and  
133 additional services as may be determined by the department.

134 (i) Work in conjunction with and act as a coordinating  
135 body for governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders to  
136 develop strategies and recommendations regarding assessment and  
137 development of the state's physician workforce. The Office of  
138 Physician Workforce Assessment and Development shall report its  
139 findings to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
140 Speaker of the House of Representatives by November 1 of each

141 year. The report shall include, at a minimum, a description of  
142 the status of each requirement of this subsection,  
143 recommendations of strategies needed to address each  
144 requirement, assessment of the implementation of previous  
145 recommendations, and recommendations relative to other  
146 alternative strategies or matters deemed important by the  
147 department to ensure that the state has an adequate supply of  
148 well-trained physicians to meet the state's future health care  
149 needs. Stakeholders that may serve as resources may include, but  
150 are not limited to, the secretaries or designees of the  
151 Department of Health, Department of Education, and Agency for  
152 Healthcare Administration; the Chancellor or designee of the  
153 Board of Governors; and, at the discretion of the department,  
154 other representatives of state and local agencies involved in  
155 the assessment, education, training, or provision of the state's  
156 current or future physician workforce. Other stakeholders shall  
157 include, but are not limited to, organizations representing the  
158 state's public and private allopathic and osteopathic medical  
159 schools; organizations representing hospitals and other  
160 healthcare-providing institutions, particularly those that  
161 currently provide or have an interest in providing accredited  
162 medical education and graduate medical education to medical  
163 students and medical residents in the state; organizations  
164 representing allopathic and osteopathic practicing physicians,  
165 including organizations representing physician specialties as  
166 needed to address items requiring specific physician specialist  
167 expertise; and, at the discretion of the department,  
168 representatives of other organizations or entities involved in

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169 the assessment, education, training, or provision of the state's  
170 current or future physician workforce.

171 (j) Serve as a state liaison with other states and federal  
172 agencies and programs to enhance resources available to the  
173 state's physician workforce and medical education continuum.

174 (k) Act as a clearinghouse for collecting and  
175 disseminating information regarding physician workforce and  
176 medical education continuum issues in the state.

177 (4) DATA COLLECTION.--In order to collect the physician  
178 workforce data described in subsection (3), the department shall  
179 develop a physician workforce survey instrument that shall be  
180 provided to each person who applies for licensure renewal as a  
181 physician under chapter 458 or chapter 459 in conjunction with  
182 the renewal of such license, under procedures adopted by the  
183 department. Completion of the physician workforce survey  
184 instrument shall be voluntary.

185 (5) RULEMAKING.--The department shall adopt rules,  
186 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, necessary to implement  
187 this section.

188 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, only  
189 if a specific appropriation is made in the General  
190 Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2007-2008.