

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB196

Hearing Date: Friday February 20, 2015
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Campbell
One Liner: Change provisions of the Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Baker, Campbell, Cook, Crawford, Howard, Kolterman, Riepe
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Kathy Campbell
Bob Rauner
Corrie Edwards
David Seger
Justin Shirk
Rowen Zetterman
Brian Buhlke
Deborah Ebke
Marty Fattig

Representing:

District 25
Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians
Mid-Plains Center
Self
Dental School
Nebraska Medical Association
Rural Health Commission
Self
Rural Health Advisory Commission

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Dave McBride
Michael Wadman

Representing:

Nebraska Optometric Association
Self

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

The bill was brought at the request of the Rural Health Advisory Commission to update statutory language and increase the student loan and loan repayment amounts to address the shortage of rural health providers.

Section-by-section description:

Section (1): Amends 71-5650 to include the provisions of the bill into the Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act.

Section (2): Amends 71-5652 regarding the purpose of the Act, to include a new loan repayment program to provide financial incentives to medical residents who agree to practice in a designated health profession shortage area in Nebraska.

Section (3): Amends 71-5653 defining part-time practice; removes reference to the Nebraska Medical Student Assistance Act, which is no longer in existence.

Section (4): Amends 71-5661, including in the existing financial incentives the repayment of qualified educational debts

owed by physicians in an approved medical specialty residency program.

Section (5): Amends 71-5662 to add eligibility for the medical resident incentive, and to remove expired dates.

Section (6): Amends 71-5663 to change amounts of financial assistance from \$20,000 per recipient per academic year to \$30,000, capping the total possible amount of financial assistance at \$120,000 for medical, dental, or doctorate-level mental health students and \$30,000 for master's level mental health or PA students. Adds provision regarding financial assistance provided through the medical resident incentive program, limiting the amount to \$40,000 per recipient for each year of residency, capped at \$120,000. Renumbers sections. Changes the limit of financial assistance through the loan repayment plan for physicians, dentists, and psychologists (\$30,000 per student per year, not exceeding \$90,000 per student); for PA's, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and mental health practitioners (\$15,000 per student per year, not exceeding \$45,000 per student).

Section (7): Amends 71-5666 regarding exceptions to the time period in which practice must commence. Adds provision relating to loan cancellation for part-time practice in shortage areas. Adds circumstances in which the borrower is obligated to repay the loan.

Section (8): Amends 71-5667 to update language and the name of the repayment program.

Section (9): Amends 71-5668 to increase amounts the state and a local entity providing a community match may provide for repayment of qualified educational debts. Increases from \$20,000 to \$30,000 per student per year for for physicians, dentists, and psychologists and from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per student per year for physician assistants, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, physical therapists, occupational therapists and mental health practitioners.

Section (10): Adds new language regarding the agreement each medical resident incentive recipient must make with DHHS.

Section (11): Repealer

Kathy Campbell, Chairperson