



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 106

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 6576

House of Representatives, April 2, 2001

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. EBERLE of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR PRIMARY CARE CLINICIANS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 19a-7d of the general statutes is repealed and the following
2 is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health may establish, within
4 available appropriations, a program to provide three-year grants to
5 community-based providers of primary care services in order to
6 expand access to health care for the uninsured. The grants may be
7 awarded to community-based providers of primary care for (1)
8 funding for direct services, (2) recruitment and retention of primary
9 care clinicians through subsidizing of salaries or through a loan
10 repayment program, and (3) capital expenditures. The community-
11 based providers of primary care under the direct service program shall
12 provide, or arrange access to, primary and preventive services,
13 referrals to specialty services, including rehabilitative and mental

14 health services, inpatient care, prescription drugs, basic diagnostic
15 laboratory services, health education and outreach to alert people to
16 the availability of services. Primary care clinicians participating in the
17 state loan repayment program or receiving subsidies shall provide
18 services to the uninsured based on a sliding fee schedule, provide free
19 care if necessary, accept Medicare assignment and participate as a
20 Medicaid provider. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in
21 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish eligibility
22 criteria, services to be provided by participants, the sliding fee
23 schedule, reporting requirements and the loan repayment program.
24 For the purposes of this section, "primary care clinicians" includes
25 family practice physicians, general practice osteopaths, obstetricians
26 and gynecologists, internal medicine physicians, pediatricians,
27 dentists, certified nurse midwives, [nurse practitioners and] registered
28 nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants and
29 dental hygienists.

30 (b) Funds appropriated for the state loan repayment program shall
31 not lapse until fifteen months following the end of the fiscal year for
32 which such funds were appropriated.

PH **JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST.**

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Affected Agencies: Department of Public Health

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

Adding dental hygienists and registered nurses to the list of eligible primary care clinicians under the State Loan Repayment Program will result in no fiscal impact to the Department of Public Health, since the number of program participants is limited by available funding. The Governor’s Recommended FY 02 - FY 03 Budget includes \$194,500 in each of FY 02 and FY 03 for the State Loan Repayment Program. The State receives \$1 in federal matching dollars for each state dollar appropriated. These resources support eight to ten new loan repayment slots each year.

No impact is associated with adding advanced practice registered nurses to the list of eligible clinicians, as they are currently able to participate in the State Loan Repayment Program.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6576

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR PRIMARY CARE CLINICIANS.

SUMMARY:

This bill adds dental hygienists and registered nurses to those eligible for the state loan repayment program for primary care clinicians. It also substitutes advanced practice registered nurses for nurse practitioners as program-eligible clinicians.

By law, the Department of Public Health can award three-year grants to community-based primary care providers in order to expand access to health care for the uninsured. These grants are for (1) recruiting and retaining primary care clinicians, (2) direct services funding, and (3) capital expenditures. Primary care clinicians currently eligible under the program are family practice and internal medicine physicians, general practice osteopaths, obstetricians and gynecologists, pediatricians, dentists, certified nurse-midwives, and physician assistants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0