

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 489

FINAL READING

Introduced by Sullivan, 41; Dubas, 34; Flood, 19; Gloor, 35;
Hadley, 37; Karpisek, 32; Rogert, 16; Stuthman, 22;
Wallman, 30; Pankonin, 2; Howard, 9.

Read first time January 20, 2009

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to health care; to adopt the Area Health
- 2 Education Centers Act; and to provide a termination date.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall be known and
2 may be cited as the Area Health Education Centers Act.

3 Sec. 2. For purposes of the Area Health Education Centers
4 Act, area health education center means a private, nonprofit
5 organization established under federal law that has a cooperative
6 agreement with the University of Nebraska Medical Center and
7 performs the duties provided in section 3 of this act.

8 Sec. 3. An area health education center shall:

9 (1) Develop and implement strategies to recruit into
10 careers in health professions: Individuals from underserved urban
11 communities; individuals who grew up in, resided a substantial
12 portion of their life in, or attended high school in federally
13 designated rural or nonmetropolitan communities; and individuals
14 from underrepresented or rural populations;

15 (2) Develop and implement strategies to foster and
16 provide community-based training and education to individuals
17 seeking careers in health professions within underserved areas
18 and populations;

19 (3) Develop and implement strategies to retain health
20 care professionals providing health care services to underserved
21 areas and populations;

22 (4) Prepare individuals to provide health care services
23 more effectively to underserved areas and populations through field
24 placements or preceptorships in conjunction with community-based
25 organizations, accredited primary care residency training programs,

1 community health centers, Indian health centers, public health
2 departments, or other appropriate facilities and programs;

3 (5) Conduct and participate in interdisciplinary training
4 of health profession students, including, but not limited to,
5 students studying to become physicians, physician assistants, nurse
6 practitioners, nurse midwives, dentists, or other health care
7 professionals or students in behavioral health, public health, and
8 other health care profession educational programs;

9 (6) Develop, deliver, or facilitate continuing
10 education and information dissemination programs for health care
11 professionals, with an emphasis on individuals providing health
12 care services to underserved areas and populations;

13 (7) Collaborate in the development of well-managed health
14 care delivery systems in underserved areas and among underserved
15 populations; and

16 (8) Conduct an annual evaluation of its performance in
17 carrying out the duties provided in this section and provide
18 data to the Governor and the Legislature that includes, but is
19 not limited to: (a) The number of participants in any of the
20 programs developed, implemented, or facilitated by area health
21 education centers who enter into health-related professions and
22 which professions they enter; (b) the number of participants in
23 any of the programs developed, implemented, or facilitated by
24 area health education centers who remain in Nebraska and provide
25 health care services to underserved areas and populations; and

1 (c) the number and type of continuing education programs offered,
2 the number and type of participants in such programs by health
3 profession category, and the number of continuing education hours
4 awarded.

5 Sec. 4. (1) The University of Nebraska Medical Center
6 shall enter into cooperative agreements with area health education
7 centers. Prior to entering into such agreements, the University of
8 Nebraska Medical Center shall ensure that an area health education
9 center:

10 (a) Is a private, nonprofit organization whose structure,
11 governance, and operation are independent from the University of
12 Nebraska Medical Center;

13 (b) Designates a geographic area, a medically underserved
14 urban community, or a federally designated rural or nonmetropolitan
15 community to be served by the area health education center
16 that does not duplicate, in whole or in part, the community
17 or population served by any other area health education center;

18 (c) Fosters networking and collaboration among
19 communities and community-based health care providers;

20 (d) Serves urban communities and federally designated
21 rural or nonmetropolitan communities with a demonstrated need for
22 health care professionals;

23 (e) Addresses the health care workforce needs of the
24 communities served; and

25 (f) Conducts an annual evaluation of its performance in

1 carrying out the duties provided in section 3 of this act and
2 reports the results of such evaluation to the Governor and the
3 Legislature.

4 (2) To assist area health education centers in carrying
5 out the duties provided in section 3 of this act, the University of
6 Nebraska Medical Center shall:

7 (a) Serve as a resource to area health education centers;

8 (b) Encourage collaboration between pertinent programs
9 administered by the University of Nebraska Medical Center and area
10 health education centers;

11 (c) Take into consideration the capabilities of the
12 existing area health education centers prior to establishing
13 separate or parallel programs; and

14 (d) Assist each area health education center in
15 conducting an annual evaluation of its performance in carrying out
16 the duties as provided in section 3 of this act.

17 Sec. 5. It is the intent of the Legislature to initially
18 appropriate funding for area health education centers for five
19 years. No later than June 30, 2014, the Health and Human
20 Services Committee of the Legislature, in consultation with the
21 Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, shall provide for an
22 evaluation of the effectiveness of area health education centers
23 in carrying out the duties provided under section 3 of this act
24 and make recommendation regarding the continued funding of such
25 centers.

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1 Sec. 6. The Area Health Education Centers Act terminates
2 on June 30, 2014.