

As Reported by the House Health Committee

127th General Assembly

Regular Session

2007-2008

Sub. S. B. No. 147

Senator Faber

Cosponsors: Senators Schuring, Grendell, Wagoner, Morano, Seitz, Mumper, Buehrer, Coughlin, Harris, Miller, D., Padgett, Schaffer, Spada, Stivers, Cafaro, Amstutz, Sawyer, Jacobson, Fedor, Smith, Mason, Cates,

Wilson

Representatives Hagan, R., DeBose, Strahorn, Letson, Williams, B., Boyd,

Slesnick

—

A BILL

To amend section 5120.55 of the Revised Code to permit the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to recruit certain licensed health professionals through a loan repayment program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 5120.55 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5120.55. (A) As used in this section, "physician" "licensed health professional" means ~~an individual~~ any or all of the following:

(1) A dentist who holds a current, valid license issued under Chapter 4715. of the Revised Code to practice dentistry;

(2) A licensed practical nurse who holds a current, valid license issued under Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code that

authorizes the practice of nursing as a licensed practical nurse; 14

(3) An optometrist who holds a current, valid certificate of licensure issued under Chapter 4725. of the Revised Code that authorizes the holder to engage in the practice of optometry; 15
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(4) A physician who is authorized under Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or podiatry; 18
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(5) A psychologist who holds a current, valid license issued under Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code that authorizes the practice of psychology as a licensed psychologist; 21
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(6) A registered nurse who holds a current, valid license issued under Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code that authorizes the practice of nursing as a registered nurse regardless of whether the nurse is authorized to practice as an advanced practice nurse as defined in section 4723.01 of the Revised Code. 24
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(B)(1) The department of rehabilitation and correction may establish a ~~physician~~ recruitment program under which the department, by means of a contract entered into under division (C) of this section, agrees to repay all or part of the principal and interest of a government or other educational loan incurred by a ~~physician~~ licensed health professional who agrees to provide services to inmates of correctional institutions under the department's administration. ~~To~~ 29
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(2)(a) For a physician to be eligible to participate in the program, a ~~the~~ physician must have attended a school that was, during the time of attendance, a medical school or osteopathic medical school in this country accredited by the liaison committee on medical education or the American osteopathic association, a college of podiatry in this country recognized as being in good standing under section 4731.53 of the Revised Code, or a medical school, osteopathic medical school, or college of podiatry located 37
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outside this country that was acknowledged by the world health 45
organization and verified by a member state of that organization 46
as operating within that state's jurisdiction. 47

(b) For a nurse to be eligible to participate in the program, 48
the nurse must have attended a school that was, during the time of 49
attendance, a nursing school in this country accredited by the 50
commission on collegiate nursing education or the national league 51
for nursing accrediting commission or a nursing school located 52
outside this country that was acknowledged by the world health 53
organization and verified by a member state of that organization 54
as operating within that state's jurisdiction. 55

(c) For a dentist to be eligible to participate in the 56
program, the dentist must have attended a school that was, during 57
the time of attendance, a dental college that enabled the dentist 58
to meet the requirements specified in section 4715.10 of the 59
Revised Code to be granted a license to practice dentistry. 60

(d) For an optometrist to be eligible to participate in the 61
program, the optometrist must have attended a school of optometry 62
that was, during the time of attendance, approved by the state 63
board of optometry. 64

(e) For a psychologist to be eligible to participate in the 65
program, the psychologist must have attended an educational 66
institution that, during the time of attendance, maintained a 67
specific degree program recognized by the state board of 68
psychology as acceptable for fulfilling the requirement of 69
division (B)(4) of section 4732.10 of the Revised Code. 70

(C) The department shall enter into a contract with each 71
~~physician~~ licensed health professional it recruits under this 72
section. Each contract shall include at least the following terms: 73
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(1) The ~~physician~~ licensed health professional agrees to 75

provide a specified scope of medical, osteopathic medical, ~~or~~ 76
podiatric, optometric, psychological, nursing, or dental services 77
to inmates of one or more specified state correctional 78
institutions for a specified number of hours per week for a 79
specified number of years. 80

(2) The department agrees to repay all or a specified portion 81
of the principal and interest of a government or other educational 82
loan taken by the ~~physician~~ licensed health professional for the 83
following expenses to attend, for up to a maximum of four years, a 84
school that qualifies the ~~physician~~ licensed health professional 85
to participate in the program: 86

(a) Tuition; 87

(b) Other educational expenses for specific purposes, 88
including fees, books, and laboratory expenses, in amounts 89
determined to be reasonable in accordance with rules adopted under 90
division (D) of this section; 91

(c) Room and board, in an amount determined to be reasonable 92
in accordance with rules adopted under division (D) of this 93
section. 94

(3) The ~~physician~~ licensed health professional agrees to pay 95
the department a specified amount, which shall be no less than the 96
amount already paid by the department pursuant to its agreement, 97
as damages if the ~~physician~~ licensed health professional fails to 98
complete the service obligation agreed to or fails to comply with 99
other specified terms of the contract. The contract may vary the 100
amount of damages based on the portion of the ~~physician's~~ service 101
obligation that remains uncompleted. 102

(4) Other terms agreed upon by the parties. 103

The ~~physician's~~ licensed health professional's lending 104
institution or the Ohio board of regents, may be a party to the 105
contract. The contract may include an assignment to the department 106

of the ~~physician's~~ licensed health professional's duty to repay 107
the principal and interest of the loan. 108

(D) If the department elects to implement the ~~physician~~ 109
recruitment program, it shall adopt rules in accordance with 110
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code that establish all of the 111
following: 112

(1) Criteria for designating institutions for which 113
~~physicians~~ licensed health professionals will be recruited; 114

(2) Criteria for selecting ~~physicians~~ licensed health 115
professionals for participation in the program; 116

(3) Criteria for determining the portion of a ~~physician's~~ 117
loan which the department will agree to repay; 118

(4) Criteria for determining reasonable amounts of the 119
expenses described in divisions (C)(2)(b) and (c) of this section; 120

(5) Procedures for monitoring compliance by ~~physicians~~ a 121
licensed health professional with the terms of ~~their contracts~~ the 122
contract the licensed health professional enters into under this 123
section; 124

(6) Any other criteria or procedures necessary to implement 125
the program. 126

Section 2. That existing section 5120.55 of the Revised Code 127
is hereby repealed. 128