

By the Committees on Appropriations; and Health Policy; and
Senator Grimsley

576-04125-18

20181486c2

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to physician workforce development;
3 amending s. 381.4018, F.S.; requiring the Department
4 of Health to adopt any rules necessary to implement a
5 specified federal program to further encourage
6 qualified physicians to relocate to and practice in
7 underserved areas; providing an effective date.

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

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11 Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section
12 381.4018, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13 381.4018 Physician workforce assessment and development.—

14 (3) GENERAL FUNCTIONS.—The department shall maximize the
15 use of existing programs under the jurisdiction of the
16 department and other state agencies and coordinate governmental
17 and nongovernmental stakeholders and resources in order to
18 develop a state strategic plan and assess the implementation of
19 such strategic plan. In developing the state strategic plan, the
20 department shall:

21 (f) Develop strategies to maximize federal and state
22 programs that provide for the use of incentives to attract
23 physicians to this state or retain physicians within the state.
24 Such strategies should explore and maximize federal-state
25 partnerships that provide incentives for physicians to practice
26 in federally designated shortage areas. Strategies shall also
27 consider the use of state programs, such as the Medical
28 Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program pursuant to
29 s. 1009.65, which provide for education loan repayment or loan

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30 forgiveness and provide monetary incentives for physicians to
31 relocate to underserved areas of the state. To further encourage
32 qualified physicians to relocate to and practice in underserved
33 areas, the department, following federal requirements, shall
34 adopt any rules necessary for the implementation of the Conrad
35 30 Waiver Program established under s. 214(1) of the Immigration
36 and Nationality Act.

37 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.