



974208

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education (Bean)
recommended the following:

Senate Amendment

Delete lines 50 - 74
and insert:
repayment program to benefit Florida-licensed dentists who
demonstrate, as required by department rule, active employment
in a public health program that serves Medicaid recipients and
other low-income patients and is located in a dental health
professional shortage area or a medically underserved area.
(3) The department shall award funds from the loan program



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11 to repay the student loans of a dentist who meets the
12 requirements of subsection (2).

13 (a) An award may not exceed \$50,000 per year per eligible
14 dentist.

15 (b) Only loans to pay the costs of tuition, books, dental
16 equipment and supplies, uniforms, and living expenses shall be
17 covered.

18 (c) All repayments shall be contingent upon continued proof
19 of eligibility and shall be made directly to the holder of the
20 loan. The state shall bear no responsibility for the collection
21 of any interest charges or other remaining balances.

22 (d) A dentist is eligible to receive funds under the loan
23 program for at least 1 year, up to a maximum of 5 years.

24 (e) The department shall limit the number of new dentists
25 participating in the loan program to no more than 10 per fiscal
26 year.

27 (4) A dentist is no longer eligible to receive funds under
28 the loan program if the dentist:

29 (a) Is no longer employed by a public health program that
30 meets the requirements of subsection (2).

31 (b) Ceases to participate in the Florida Medicaid program.

32 (c) Has disciplinary action taken against his or her
33 license by the Board of Dentistry for a violation of s. 466.028.

34 (5) The department shall adopt rules to administer the loan