

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 2508

AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES,  
FEBRUARY 16, 1994

**Brief Description:** Modifying the health professional temporary resource pool.

**SPONSORS:** Representatives Dellwo, Dyer and L. Johnson; by request of Department of Health

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Talmadge, Chairman; Wojahn, Vice Chairman; Deccio, Erwin, Fraser, McAuliffe, Moyer, Niemi and Prentice.

**Staff:** Rhoda Jones (786-7198)

**Hearing Dates:** February 16, 1994

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Health's Office of Community and Rural Development is charged with making sure there is an adequate supply of primary care services in rural areas of the state. Part of this responsibility includes managing temporary care providers when the permanent practitioners leave for short periods of time.

The department has relied on the services of area health education centers to supply them with available practitioners and help facilitate these interim positions. However, present statutory language doesn't explicitly say the department can contract out for this local expertise.

**SUMMARY:**

The Department of Health Office of Community and Rural Development is authorized to make use of expertise available in outlying areas of the state to provide temporary primary care practitioners in rural areas. This reflects current practice.

It is explicitly stated that the facility hiring the temporary practitioner pays that interim provider's salary. The facility will be reimbursed by the Department of Health for any malpractice costs that are required for the temporary employee beyond what the facility presently carries.

The Department of Health will reimburse health care facilities who use temporary practitioners for the cost of their travel and lodging.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** requested

**TESTIMONY FOR:** None

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:** None

**TESTIFIED:** No one