
Health Care Committee

HB 2788

Brief Description: Establishing priority for funds in the liability insurance program for retired primary care providers volunteering to serve low-income patients.

Sponsors: Representatives Kessler, Schual-Berke, Cody, Morrell, Clibborn, Campbell, Moeller, Darneille, Buck and Kagi.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Broadens eligibility for participation in state-paid liability insurance programs for health care providers to include private for-profit clinics.

Hearing Date: 1/27/04

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

The Department of Health administers a program to purchase malpractice insurance for certain retired primary health care providers who volunteer their services at community clinics. In order to qualify, the provider must be a physician, naturopath, physician assistant, advanced registered nurse practitioner, dentist, or other health care provider whose profession is determined to be in short supply. Providers may only perform primary health care services which are limited to noninvasive procedures. Providers may not perform any obstetrical care or specialized care and procedures. Providers may only practice at community clinics that are public or private nonprofit organizations.

Summary of Bill:

Requirements that the Department of Health's retired liability insurance purchasing program only be available to volunteers at public or private nonprofit community clinics is broadened to include any clinic serving low-income patients that is a public entity, private nonprofit corporation, or other established practice setting as defined by the Department of Health. If program funding does not cover all applicants, priority is given to providers practicing at public or nonprofit entities.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.