

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2514

Introduced by Assembly Member Pan

February 21, 2014

An act relating to physicians and surgeons.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2514, as introduced, Pan. California Physician Corps Program.

Existing law establishes the California Physician Corps Program within the Health Professions Education Foundation, which provides financial incentives, as specified, to a physician and surgeon for practicing in a medically underserved community.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would create a taskforce to accomplish specified goals, including collaborating with the federal government to create a federal fund-matching program to assist with loan repayments for health care providers in medically underserved areas.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (1) The gap between California's medical providers and patients
- 4 has been widening for years. The number of medical schools and
- 5 residency positions has not kept up with the growing and aging
- 6 population of the state.

1 (2) Furthermore, there is a severe maldistribution of health care
2 providers and services throughout the state. Most physicians
3 practice in larger cities and suburbs while rural populations are
4 underserved. The majority of California's counties have been
5 designated by the federal government as health manpower shortage
6 areas.

7 (3) The National Health Service Corps and the Steven M.
8 Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program help repay
9 student loans of providers who commit to practice for a period of
10 time in health manpower shortage areas. However, these modest
11 funds are inadequate to attract enough providers and to offset their
12 skyrocketing school debts.

13 (b) It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature to enact
14 legislation that would create a taskforce to accomplish all of the
15 following:

16 (1) Encourage funding from private individuals, groups, and
17 corporations to augment loan repayment programs for physicians.

18 (2) Stimulate the formation of fund-matching programs from
19 local groups and government entities for recruitment and retention
20 of local health care providers.

21 (3) Collaborate with the federal government to create a federal
22 fund-matching program to assist with loan repayments for health
23 care providers in medically underserved areas.