

House Bill 2667
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No equivalent provision.

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SECTION __. Chapter 487, Government Code, is amended by

adding Subchapter P to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER P. RURAL PHYSICIAN AND DENTIST LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

Sec. 487.701. DEFINITION.In this subchapter, "rural medically or dentally underserved area" means a predominantly rural geographic area in this state that the office by rule designates as being underserved with respect to available medical or dental care.

Sec. 487.702. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.In accordance with this subchapter and rules adopted by the executive committee, the office shall establish and administer a program to provide loan repayment assistance to physicians and dentists who agree to:

- (1) practice medicine or dentistry, as applicable, in a rural medically or dentally underserved area; and
- (2) provide medical or dental services, as applicable, in that area to children who are recipients under the medical assistance program operated under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code.

Sec. 487.703. ELIGIBILITY.To be eligible to receive loan repayment assistance under this subchapter, a physician or dentist must:

- (1) apply to the office;
- (2) be licensed to practice medicine or dentistry, as applicable, in this state; and
- (3) enter into an agreement with the office as provided by Section 487.705.

Sec. 487.704. ELIGIBLE LOANS.(a) The office may

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provide repayment assistance for the repayment of any education loan received by the physician or dentist through any lender for education at any medical or dental school authorized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to award a degree that satisfies the medical or dental study requirements for licensure as a physician or dentist in this state.

(b) The office may not provide repayment assistance for an education loan that is in default at the time of the physician's or dentist's application.

Sec. 487.705. AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS. (a) To qualify for loan repayment assistance under this section, a person must enter into a written agreement with the office as provided by this section. The agreement must:

(1) specify the conditions the person must satisfy to receive repayment assistance;

(2) require the person to practice medicine or dentistry for at least three years in a rural medically or dentally underserved area and to provide medical or dental services, as applicable, in that area during that period to children who are recipients under the medical assistance program operated under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code;

(3) provide that any repayment assistance the person receives under this subchapter constitutes a loan until the person completes the three years of practice and satisfies other applicable conditions of the agreement; and

(4) require the person to sign a promissory note acknowledging the conditional nature of the repayment assistance received and promising to repay the amount of

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that assistance plus applicable interest and reasonable collection costs if the person does not satisfy the applicable conditions.

(b)The office shall determine the terms of the promissory note required by Subsection (a)(4). To the extent practicable, the terms must be the same as those applicable to state or federally guaranteed student loans made at the same time.

(c)The Health and Human Services Commission shall provide any information requested by the office necessary for the office to confirm a physician's or dentist's compliance with the requirement under Subsection (a)(2) that the physician or dentist provide services to children who are recipients of the medical assistance program operated under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code.

Sec. 487.706. REPAYMENT.(a) The office shall deliver any repayment assistance made under this subchapter in a lump sum payable to the lender and the physician or dentist, as applicable, and in accordance with any applicable federal law.

(b)Loan repayment assistance received under this subchapter may be applied to the principal amount of the loan and to interest that accrues.

Sec. 487.707. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS.In addition to funds appropriated by the legislature, the office may solicit and accept grants, gifts, and donations from any public or private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

Sec. 487.708. RULES.(a) The executive committee shall

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adopt rules necessary to administer this subchapter.
(b)The office shall distribute to each medical or dental school of a public or private institution of higher education in this state a copy of the rules adopted under this section.

SECTION 1. Section 614.072(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (b) The director may adopt rules necessary to assist rural volunteer fire departments in the payment of:
- (1) workers' compensation insurance;
 - (2) audit costs for workers' compensation claims in any year in which there is an abnormally high number of wildfires; and
 - (3) accidental death and disability insurance.

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SECTION 2. Chapter 614, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter H to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER H. INSURANCE COVERAGE REQUIRED FOR VOLUNTEER POLICE FORCE MEMBERS

Sec. 614.121. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "volunteer police force member" means:

- (1) a person summoned under Section 341.011, Local Government Code, to serve on a special police force;
- (2) a police reserve force member appointed under Section 341.012, Local Government Code; and
- (3) any other person assigned by a state agency or

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political subdivision to perform, without compensation, any duties typically performed by a peace officer.
Sec. 614.122. INSURANCE COVERAGE REQUIRED.
Each volunteer police force member must be insured by the applicable state agency or political subdivision against any injury suffered by the police force member in the course and scope of performing the person's assigned duties at the request of or under a contract with a state agency or political subdivision.

SECTION 3. Section 775.084(i), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (i) This section does not apply to:
- (1) the purchase or lease of real property;
 - (2) an item or service that the board determines can be obtained from only one source;
 - (3) a contract for fire extinguishment and suppression services, emergency rescue services, or ambulance services;
 - (4) an emergency expenditure;
 - (5) the purchase of vehicle fuel; [Ø]
 - (6) the purchase of firefighter bunker gear;
 - (7) the purchase of insurance coverage; or
 - (8) repairs funded by a payment made under an

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political subdivision to perform, without compensation, any duties typically performed by a peace officer.
Sec. 614.122. INSURANCE COVERAGE REQUIRED.
(a) Each volunteer police force member must be insured or covered by the applicable state agency or political subdivision against any injury suffered by the police force member in the course and scope of performing the person's assigned duties at the request of or under a contract with a state agency or political subdivision.
(b) The applicable state agency or political subdivision may satisfy the requirements of Subsection (a) by:
(1) providing insurance coverage; or
(2) entering into an interlocal agreement with another political subdivision providing for self-insurance.

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insurance claim.

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SECTION __. Subchapter A, Chapter 156, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 156.006 to read as follows:

Sec. 156.006. EMERGENCY CONTACT

INFORMATION.(a) Each license holder shall submit to the board telephone numbers, fax numbers, and e-mail addresses, if available and as appropriate, that the board may use to contact the license holder in an emergency.

(b)A license holder who receives an initial registration permit shall provide the information required under Subsection (a) not later than the 30th day after the date the permit is issued. Each license holder who applies to renew a registration permit shall submit the information required under Subsection (a) with the renewal application.

(c)A license holder shall report to the board any change in the information required under Subsection (a) not later than the 45th day after the date of the change.

(d)The information provided by a license holder under this section is confidential and is not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code. The board may not publish, release, or make available information provided by a license holder under this section except as provided by Subsection (e).

(e)In the event of a public health emergency declared or invoked by the governor, the Department of State Health Services, or a federal agency, the board may publish,

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release, or make available information provided by a license holder under this section for the sole purpose of disseminating information to:

- (1)a license holder;
- (2)a designated city, county, state, or federal public health or emergency management official; or
- (3)the Federation of State Medical Boards.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION __. (a) Not later than December 1, 2007, each person who holds a license to practice medicine under Chapter 155, Occupations Code, shall submit to the Texas Medical Board telephone numbers, fax numbers, and e-mail addresses, if available and as appropriate, that the board may use to contact the license holder in an emergency.

(b) The information provided by a license holder under this section is confidential and is not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code. The Texas Medical Board may not publish, release, or make available information provided by a license holder under this section except as provided by this subsection.

SECTION 4. Subchapter H, Chapter 614, Government Code, as added by this Act, applies only to a volunteer police force member performing assigned duties on or after January 1, 2008.

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SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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