



2017 SENATE BILL 243

May 11, 2017 - Introduced by Senators PETROWSKI, VINEHOUT and WANGGAARD, cosponsored by Representatives VANDERMEER, TAUCHEN, KULP, RIPP, MURSAU, E. BROOKS, BILLINGS, BALLWEG, SNYDER, PETRYK, SKOWRONSKI, TITTL, SINICKI, EDMING and FELZKOWSKI. Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 146.675 of the statutes; **relating to:** grants for language
2 interpretation in health care settings.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Health Services to create a grant program for language interpretation services provided in medical clinics and hospitals that are located in rural areas or that serve medically underserved populations.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 146.675 of the statutes is created to read:
4 **146.675 Grants for interpretation services.** (1) In this section:
5 (a) “Medically underserved population” has the meaning given in 42 CFR
6 51c.102 (e).
7 (b) “Rural area” means any of the following:

SENATE BILL 243**SECTION 1**

1 1. A city, town, or village in this state that has a population of less than 20,000
2 and that is at least 15 miles from any city, town, or village that has a population of
3 at least 20,000.

4 2. An area in this state that is not an urbanized area, as defined by the federal
5 bureau of the census.

6 **(2)** The department shall create a program to provide grants to reimburse
7 medical clinics and hospitals for language interpretation services provided to
8 patients at those clinics and hospitals. To be eligible for a grant under this section,
9 a medical clinic or hospital shall satisfy all of the following criteria:

10 (a) The medical clinic or hospital is located in a rural area or serves a medically
11 underserved population.

12 (b) The language interpretation services provided at the medical clinic or
13 hospital comply with 42 USC 2000d.

14 **(3)** The department shall allow a medical clinic or hospital that receives a grant
15 under this section discretion in the provision of language interpretation services,
16 including allowing services to be provided in-person by a clinic or hospital employee
17 or by a contractor or over an Internet connection.

18 **(4)** (a) From the appropriation under s. 20.435 (4) (b), the department shall
19 distribute \$100,000 in each fiscal year for grants under sub. (2).

20 (b) The department shall seek any available federal Medical Assistance
21 participation moneys to match the grants distributed under sub. (2). If the
22 department receives federal Medical Assistance participation moneys for that
23 purpose, the department shall distribute the moneys received under this paragraph
24 as grants under sub. (2) in addition to the moneys distributed under par. (a).

25

(END)