



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Assembly Bill 976

Assembly Amendment 1

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Assembly Bill 976 requires the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) to establish a loan program to defray the cost of tuition, fees, and expenses for residents of Wisconsin who are enrolled in a program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Medical School or at the Medical College of Wisconsin leading to the degree of doctor of medicine, and who agree to practice medicine for not less than two years in a rural area (described in the bill as “an area of the state outside of a metropolitan statistical area”). The bill also specifies maximum amounts of loans and provides for repayment of a portion of a loan through practicing as a physician in a rural area.

Assembly Amendment 1 deletes references in the bill to “rural” and “an area of the state outside a metropolitan statistical area” and instead provides that the program applies to persons who agree to practice medicine in a health professional shortage area. The term “health professional shortage area” is defined as an area designated by the federal Department of Health and Human Services under federal regulations as having a shortage of medical care professionals.

Legislative History

On February 22, 2006, the Assembly Committee on Public Health recommended adoption of the amendment, and passage of the bill as amended, both by votes of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0.

RNS:ksm:rv