



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 93
[2009 Senate Bill 80]

**Volunteer Health Care
Provider Program**

Under the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program (program), the state indemnifies certain health care providers who provide health care services for a nonprofit agency or elementary school free of charge or, in the case of some dental services, for a discounted fee. The following people may become volunteer health care providers under the program: physicians, dentists, dental hygienists, registered nurses, practical nurses, nurse-midwives, optometrists, physician assistants, pharmacists, dietitians, nurse practitioners, and pharmacy technicians. If a claim is brought against a volunteer health care provider for acts or omissions committed in the course of providing health care services under the program, the state must provide or pay for legal representation for the volunteer health care provider and must pay damages and costs awarded against the volunteer health care provider to the extent that legal representation, damages, and costs are not covered by any applicable insurance.

2009 Wisconsin Act 93 requires the state to provide or pay for legal representation and pay damages and costs awarded against a volunteer health care provider in connection with a claim arising against the volunteer health care provider for acts or omissions committed in the course of providing volunteer health care services under the program, regardless of whether any applicable insurance covers the costs of legal representation, damages, or costs. The Act also allows chiropractors, physical therapists, and podiatrists to become volunteer health care providers under the program.

Effective date: 2009 Wisconsin Act 93 takes effect on December 16, 2009.

Prepared by: Laura Rose, Deputy Director

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.