

# 1997 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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## SENATE BILL NO. 1141

Offered January 20, 1997

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-122.7 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Statewide Area Health Education Center Program.*

Patron—Houck

Referred to the Committee on Education and Health

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 32.1-122.7 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 32.1-122.7. Statewide Area Health Education Center Program.

A. The Board, in cooperation with the Virginia Health Planning Board and the three medical schools in the Commonwealth, shall design and implement the Statewide Area Health Education Center Program in order to attract and retain medical care practitioners in underserved areas of Virginia. The Board shall prescribe regulations for the Program, which shall be administered by a board of directors appointed by the Board, and composed of representatives of the three medical schools in the Commonwealth, community area health care centers, and other educational, health, and human services agencies and organizations. The Program shall be designed to (i) establish professional practice support systems by linking the benefits of the medical expertise and research of the three medical schools with the delivery of health services to indigent individuals and recipients of public assistance develop programs to recruit students, particularly under-represented and disadvantaged student populations, for health professions and careers; (ii) encourage the graduates of the three medical schools to practice in the Commonwealth by recruiting students to enter primary care specialties and to practice in underserved areas support the community-based training of students, residents, and other health professionals enrolled or engaged, as the case may be, in the primary care health professions in underserved communities of the Commonwealth; (iii) promote the development and implementation of innovations in the delivery of community health services such as after-hours clinics in the three medical schools and community-based service demonstration projects provide educational and practice support systems for the Commonwealth's primary care providers; and (iv) anticipate and avoid critical physician shortages by expanding opportunities for family practice preceptorships, clerkships, and residencies collaborate with health, education, and human services organizations to facilitate and promote improved health education and disease prevention among the citizens of the Commonwealth.

B. The Board of Directors shall report annually the status and progress of the implementation of the Program's goals and objectives to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the State Board of Health, and the Governor and the General Assembly.

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