

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 32.1-122.7 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Statewide Area*
3 *Health Education Centers Program.*

[S 1141]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 32.1-122.7 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 32.1-122.7. Statewide Area Health Education Centers Program.

9 A. The Board, in cooperation with the Virginia Health Planning Board and the three medical schools
10 in the Commonwealth, shall design and implement the Virginia Statewide Area Health Education Center
11 Centers Program in order to attract and retain medical care practitioners in underserved areas of Virginia
12 (AHEC) is a collaborative partnership conducted under the auspices of the Virginia Statewide AHEC
13 Board of Directors. Generally, AHECs are nonprofit organizations with a governing or advisory board
14 of individuals representing the services area. The mission of the Area Health Education Centers
15 Program shall be designed to is to promote health careers and access to primary care for medically
16 underserved populations through community-academic partnerships. The mission of the Virginia
17 Statewide AHEC Program is accomplished through the following four major areas of program activity:
18 (i) establish professional practice support systems by linking the benefits of the medical expertise and
19 research of the three medical schools with the delivery of health services to indigent individuals and
20 recipients of public assistance developing health careers recruitment programs for Virginia's students,
21 especially underrepresented and disadvantaged students; (ii) encourage the graduates of the three
22 medical schools to practice in the Commonwealth by recruiting students to enter primary care specialties
23 and to practice in underserved areas supporting the community-based training of primary care health
24 professions students, residents, and other health professions students in Virginia's underserved
25 communities; (iii) promote the development and implementation of innovations in the delivery of
26 community health services such as after-hours clinics in the three medical schools and community-based
27 service demonstration projects providing educational and practice support systems for the
28 Commonwealth's primary care providers; and (iv) anticipate and avoid critical physician shortages by
29 expanding opportunities for family practice preceptorships, clerkships, and residencies collaborating with
30 health, education, and human services organizations to facilitate and promote improved health education
31 and disease prevention among the citizens of the Commonwealth.

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

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