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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIFTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. **1806**

March 7, 2007

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance

A bill for an act

relating to health; expanding the health professional education loan forgiveness
program for child mental health professionals; appropriating money; amending
Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 144.1501, subdivision 2.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 144.1501, subdivision 2, is amended to
read:

Subd. 2. **Creation of account.** (a) A health professional education loan forgiveness
program account is established. The commissioner of health shall use money from the
account to establish a loan forgiveness program:

(1) for medical residents agreeing to practice in designated rural areas or underserved
urban communities or specializing in the area of pediatric psychiatry;

(2) for midlevel practitioners agreeing to practice in designated rural areas, or in the
area of pediatric psychiatry or mental health, or to teach for at least 20 hours per week in
the nursing field in a postsecondary program;

(3) for nurses ~~who agree~~ agreeing to practice in a Minnesota nursing home or, an
intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disability, or in a hospital
pediatric psychiatric unit or to teach for at least 20 hours per week in the nursing field in a
postsecondary program;

(4) for other health care technicians agreeing to teach for at least 20 hours per week
in their designated field in a postsecondary program. The commissioner, in consultation
with the Healthcare Education-Industry Partnership, shall determine the health care fields
where the need is the greatest, including, but not limited to, respiratory therapy, clinical
laboratory technology, radiologic technology, and surgical technology;

2.1 (5) for pharmacists who agree to practice in designated rural areas; and
2.2 (6) for dentists agreeing to deliver at least 25 percent of the dentist's yearly patient
2.3 encounters to state public program enrollees or patients receiving sliding fee schedule
2.4 discounts through a formal sliding fee schedule meeting the standards established by
2.5 the United States Department of Health and Human Services under Code of Federal
2.6 Regulations, title 42, section 51, chapter 303.

2.7 (b) Appropriations made to the account do not cancel and are available until
2.8 expended, except that at the end of each biennium, any remaining balance in the account
2.9 that is not committed by contract and not needed to fulfill existing commitments shall
2.10 cancel to the fund.

2.11 **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION.**

2.12 \$..... is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the
2.13 biennium beginning July 1, 2007, for the expansion of the health professional education
2.14 loan forgiveness program as described in section 1.