



2025 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 86

Introduced by: **Senator Davis**

1 **An Act to expand eligibility for the rural recruitment assistance program to include**
 2 **chiropractors and optometrists.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That § 34-12G-1 be AMENDED:**

5 **34-12G-1.** The Department of Health may establish a program to assist rural
 6 communities in recruiting ~~physicians, dentists, physician assistants, certified nurse~~
 7 ~~practitioners, and certified nurse midwives~~ the following health care professionals:

8 (1) Certified nurse midwives;

9 (2) Certified nurse practitioners;

10 (3) Chiropractors;

11 (4) Dentists;

12 (5) Optometrists;

13 (6) Physicians; and

14 (7) Physician assistants.

15 **Section 2. That § 34-12G-3 be AMENDED:**

16 **34-12G-3.** A physician is eligible to participate in the recruitment assistance
 17 program established pursuant to §§ 34-12G-1 to 34-12G-9, inclusive, if the physician is
 18 licensed to practice medicine pursuant to chapter 36-4 and has completed an accredited
 19 residency program in family practice, pediatrics, internal medicine, or
 20 ~~obstetrics/gynecology~~ obstetrics and gynecology, and if the physician agrees to practice
 21 in an eligible rural community for a minimum period of three years. No more than fifteen
 22 physicians may participate in the program at any ~~specified~~ one time. Preference ~~shall~~ must
 23 be given to physicians who have graduated from the University of South Dakota School of
 24 Medicine and completed an accredited residency program ~~located in South Dakota~~ this
 25 state.

1 ~~A dentist is eligible to participate in the recruitment assistance program established~~
 2 ~~pursuant to §§ 34-12G-1 to 34-12G-9, inclusive, if the dentist is licensed to practice~~
 3 ~~dentistry pursuant to chapter 36-6A and agrees to practice general or pediatric dentistry~~
 4 ~~in an eligible rural community for a minimum period of three years. No more than five~~
 5 ~~dentists may participate in the program at any specified time.~~

6 ~~A physician assistant, certified nurse practitioner, or certified nurse midwife is~~
 7 ~~eligible to participate in the recruitment assistance program established pursuant to~~
 8 ~~§§ 34-12G-1 to 34-12G-9, inclusive, if the physician assistant, certified nurse practitioner,~~
 9 ~~or certified nurse midwife is licensed to practice pursuant to chapter 36-4A or chapter 36-~~
 10 ~~9A, respectively, and has completed an accredited physician assistant, certified nurse~~
 11 ~~practitioner, or certified nurse midwife program and if the person agrees to practice as a~~
 12 ~~primary care physician assistant, family certified nurse practitioner, or certified nurse~~
 13 ~~midwife in an eligible rural community for a minimum period of three years.~~

14 ~~A certified registered nurse anesthetist is eligible to participate in the recruitment~~
 15 ~~assistance program established pursuant to §§ 34-12G-1 to 34-12G-9, inclusive, if the~~
 16 ~~nurse is authorized to practice the nursing specialty of nurse anesthesia, as described in~~
 17 ~~§ 36-9-3.1, and agrees to practice as a certified registered nurse anesthetist in an eligible~~
 18 ~~rural community for a minimum period of three years.~~

19 ~~No more than a cumulative total of fifteen physician assistants, certified nurse~~
 20 ~~practitioners, certified nurse midwives, or certified registered nurse anesthetists may~~
 21 ~~participate in the program at any specified time.~~

22 **Section 3. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 34-12G:**

23 A dentist is eligible to participate in the recruitment assistance program established
 24 pursuant to §§ 34-12G-1 to 34-12G-9, inclusive, if the dentist is licensed to practice
 25 dentistry pursuant to chapter 36-6A and agrees to practice general or pediatric dentistry
 26 in an eligible rural community for a minimum period of three years. No more than five
 27 dentists may participate in the program at any one time.

28 **Section 4. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 34-12G:**

29 A chiropractor is eligible to participate in the recruitment assistance program
 30 established pursuant to §§ 34-12G-1 to 34-12G-9, inclusive, if the chiropractor is licensed
 31 pursuant to chapter 36-5 and agrees to a general practice in an eligible rural community
 32 for a minimum period of three years. No more than two chiropractors may participate in
 33 the program at any one time.

1 **Section 5. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 34-12G:**

2 An optometrist is eligible to participate in the recruitment assistance program
 3 established pursuant to §§ 34-12G-1 to 34-12G-9, inclusive, if the optometrist is licensed
 4 pursuant to chapter 36-7 and agrees to a general practice in an eligible rural community
 5 for a minimum period of three years. No more than two optometrists may participate in
 6 the program at any one time.

7 **Section 6. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 34-12G:**

8 A physician assistant, certified nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, or
 9 certified registered nurse anesthetist is eligible to participate in the recruitment assistance
 10 program established pursuant to §§ 34-12G-1 to 34-12G-9, inclusive, if:

11 (1) The physician assistant:

12 (a) Is licensed to practice pursuant to chapter 36-4A and has completed an
 13 accredited physician assistant program; and

14 (b) Agrees to practice as a primary care physician assistant in an eligible rural
 15 community for a minimum period of three years;

16 (2) The certified nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife:

17 (a) Is licensed to practice pursuant to chapter 36-9A and has completed an
 18 accredited certified nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife program;
 19 and

20 (b) Agrees to practice as a family certified nurse practitioner or a certified nurse
 21 midwife in an eligible rural community for a minimum period of three years;
 22 or

23 (3) The certified registered nurse anesthetist:

24 (a) Is authorized to practice the nursing specialty of nurse anesthesia, as
 25 described in § 36-9-3.1; and

26 (b) Agrees to practice as a certified registered nurse anesthetist in an eligible
 27 rural community for a minimum period of three years.

28 No more than a cumulative total of fifteen physician assistants, certified nurse
 29 practitioners, certified nurse midwives, or certified registered nurse anesthetists may
 30 participate in the program at any one time.

31 **Section 7. That § 34-12G-4 be AMENDED:**

1 **34-12G-4.** A physician ~~or,~~ dentist, chiropractor, or optometrist who fulfills the
 2 requirements of the recruitment assistance program established pursuant to §§ 34-12G-
 3 1 to 34-12G-9, inclusive, is entitled to receive an incentive payment in an amount equal
 4 to twice the University of South Dakota School of Medicine resident tuition for the four
 5 most recently completed academic years.

6 A physician assistant, certified nurse practitioner, ~~or certified nurse midwife, or~~
 7 certified registered nurse anesthetist who fulfills the requirements of the recruitment
 8 assistance program established pursuant to §§ 34-12G-1 to 34-12G-9, inclusive, is
 9 entitled to receive an incentive payment in an amount equal to twice the University of
 10 South Dakota resident tuition for physician assistant studies for the three most recently
 11 completed academic years.

12 **Section 8. That § 34-12G-5 be AMENDED:**

13 **34-12G-5.** ~~Any agreement for the payment of~~ A rural community participating in
 14 the recruitment assistance pursuant to §§ 34-12G-1 to 34-12G-9, inclusive, ~~shall obligate~~
 15 ~~the rural community to be served by a physician, dentist, physician assistant, certified~~
 16 ~~nurse practitioner, or certified nurse midwife to~~ must provide a portion of the total amount
 17 of the incentive payment for the health care professional who agrees to serve the
 18 community, based on the following criteria:~~communities~~

- 19 (1) A community of two thousand five hundred persons or ~~less~~ fewer shall provide
 20 twenty-five percent of incentive payments;~~communities~~
- 21 (2) A community of more than two thousand five hundred persons and ~~less~~ fewer than
 22 five thousand persons shall provide fifty percent of incentive payments; and ~~all~~
 23 ~~remaining eligible communities~~
- 24 (3) A community of more than five thousand persons shall provide seventy-five
 25 percent of incentive payments.

26 When the ~~rural~~ community certifies to the secretary of health that it has paid the
 27 full amount for which it is obligated, the secretary ~~of the Department of Health~~ shall pay
 28 to the ~~physician, dentist, physician assistant, certified nurse practitioner, or certified nurse~~
 29 ~~midwife~~ health care professional the remaining balance of the total incentive payment
 30 amount. The secretary shall pay the required amount out of funds appropriated by the
 31 Legislature for ~~such~~ that purpose. The incentive payment ~~shall~~ must be paid upon
 32 completion of the required three-year practice period by the ~~physician, dentist, physician~~
 33 ~~assistant, certified nurse practitioner, or certified nurse midwife~~ health care professional.

- 1 ~~However,~~ A community may pay its portion of the incentive payment at any time during
- 2 the three-year period.