



Joint Subcommittee On Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget (PEPB)

60TH Montana Legislature

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HJR 22 WORKING GROUP (DENTAL STUDY)

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

The following is a brief written summary of the working group meeting and the major areas of focus and tasks ahead for the subsequent meetings. For complete audio minutes, please see the website for the PEPB at http://leg.mt.gov/css/fiscal/PEPB_Subcommittee.asp where there is a link to the HJR 22 audio minutes for the March 12, 2008 meeting.

The working group eliminated from additional research and consideration at the next meeting the following topic areas:

- 1. Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE)**
- 2. State Income Tax Credits/Deductions Options**
- 3. Create a Residency Program for General Dentistry in Montana**
- 4. Seek additional dental slots for students at the University of Oregon or Creighton**

The working group tasked staff with additional research and information on the following topics, which appear in no particular order:

1. Increase Student Slots for the WICHE Dental and MN Dental Programs

An increase in the number of student slots for the Professional Student Exchange Programs (PSEP) would not require specific legislation or a bill draft. Rather, this could occur as part of the state budget. That process starts with the executive budget, which is transmitted to the legislature and introduced typically as House Bill 2 (HB 2) and works its way through the committee process in both chambers of the legislature.

Therefore, in order to create an increase in the number of student dental slots starting in the 2011 biennium budget, the working group options include:

- Recommending that PEPB/ELG communicate with the Governor urging that the executive budget would include some number of additional dental slots and the associated funding
- Recommending that PEPB/ELG communicate with legislative leadership urging that the legislature support executive budget funding for additional dental slots or, in the absence

of executive funding, urging the legislature to amend HB 2 to include additional dental student slots and add the associated funding

The working group may want to address add-on programs to recruit students who would be interested in and qualified for these additional dental student slots, to ensure that they would be filled.

2. Create dental incentive Student Loan Repayment Program for Dentists...model similar to the MR PIP program

The working group is interested in recommending the legislation and funding that would be required to create this program in Montana. The report at the March meeting included a number of specific variables/decision points that the working group will need to make in formulating this recommendation, first of which will be whether to create a separate, stand-alone program in statute or whether to amend the existing physician statutory program to include dentists.

3. Expand the dental services at Community Health Center Dental Clinics (CHC's)

The working group is interested in expanding the dental service capacity of the existing CHC dental clinics in the following areas:

- Increase the capacity of the CHC system so that these dental clinics would be able to host dental students and dental residents to work as extenders to the existing, ongoing dental services
- Increase the capacity of the CHC system so that these dental clinics would be able to offer dental positions to returning WICHE and MN Dental students coming home to Montana to complete their required service payback
- Provide funding for portable dental units

4. Student Service Payback/Clawback Program

The working group is interested in recommending the creation of a student service payback requirement that would apply to all student slots that are funded in HB 2 as part of the PSEP administered by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

The working group will need to address the numerous variables and decision point options that are outlined in the March report in order to be prepared to recommend the creation of a statutory program.

The over-arching goal that applies to all items above is to limit the legislative mechanisms (bill drafts) that would be required to implement all four of these items, as the working group sees these as a whole package rather than separate, stand-alone items.

Notes Prepared by:

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Next Meeting: Potential meeting on Friday, April 18, 2008 – Hold Until Further Notice
Wednesday, June 11, 2008 @ 9:00 am in Capitol Hearing Room 102