

2015 and 2016 Session Update
Legislative Health Care Workforce Commission
2015 Session - Health Workforce provisions enacted

	Agency
1. Loan forgiveness appropriation increased \$2.5 million/year from \$740,000 to \$3,240,000	Health
a. Mental health professionals, dental therapists, public health nurses added as eligible participants.	
2. MERC appropriation increased \$1 million/year.	Health
3. Primary Care Residency Expansion Program established, with \$1.5 million/year appropriation	Health
4. Legislation enacted requiring coverage of telehealth services by health plans and mandating that telehealth and in-person services be reimbursed the same.	
5. International Medical Graduates Assistance Program established with a \$1 million/year appropriation	Health
6. \$15 million/year appropriated to U of M for the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee, some of which will be spent on training programs in rural and underserved communities training programs in rural and underserved communities, including RPAP.	U of M
7. \$3.4 million appropriated for 2016 -17 for Dual–Education Apprenticeship Programs (also known as “pipeline” programs) for “earn while you learn” training in high growth sectors like health care, including developing the medical scribe, health information technician, health support specialist and psychiatric/mental health technician occupations.	Labor & Industry
8. Coverage of telehealth services by health plans required; mandates that telehealth and in-person services be reimbursed the same.	Health, Commerce, DHS
9. Long term care workforce provisions:	
a. Major long term care reform enacted that are intended to have workforce effects	DHS
b. Home and Community Based Scholarship Program established; \$1 million appropriation/year.	Health
c. RNs eligible for additional participants through increased loan forgiveness appropriation. (listed above)	
10. Scope of practice, licensure or similar changes enacted:	
a. Interstate Physician Licensure Compact adopted.	Med Practice
b. Emeritus License for Social Workers – This provision provides a reduced fee so senior social workers can contribute supervision or pro bono work.	Soc. Work
c. Community Emergency Medical Technician (CEMT) – A new certification, similar to community paramedic, was established, and details for possible Medicaid reimbursement for CEMT services will be developed.	EMSRB
d. Minor changes to definition of pharmacy technician and number of technicians a pharmacist may supervise; minor change to ages of patients to whom pharmacists can administer vaccinations.	Pharmacy
11. Policy change enacted: Beginning with the upcoming school year, with district approval, a Project Lead the Way credit could fulfill a science or math credit	
12. Mental health workforce provisions:	
a. Loan forgiveness (includes MH professionals) (listed above)	
b. Increased residency slots (includes psychiatrists) (listed above)	
c. International Medical Graduates Assistance Program (listed above)	
d. Increased MERC program funding (listed above)	

e. Emeritus license for social workers at lesser fee so their skills can be used for supervision or pro bono work (listed above)	
f. Telemedicine (payment changes listed above) - In addition, for Medical Assistance, the restriction to mental health services removed.	

2016 Session - Health Workforce provisions enacted

1. Greater Minnesota Family Medicine grant Program re-established, with \$1 million/year appropriation	Health
2. MERC appropriation increased \$1 million/year.	Health
3. Reimbursement for adult basic education components of nursing assistant training programs provided	DHS
4. Scope of practice, licensure or similar changes enacted:	
a. Genetic counselors licensed	Med Practice
b. Orthotists and prosthetists licensed	Pod. Med.