
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

- Authorizes the Department of Veterans Services to establish a physician recruitment program.
- Allows the Ohio Veterans' Home to conduct bingo games at the facility for residents of the home under certain conditions.
- Creates a veteran peer counseling network administered by the Department.

Veterans' physician recruitment program

(R.C. 5907.17)

The act authorizes the Department of Veterans Services to establish a physician recruitment program. Under the program, the Department agrees to repay all or part of the principal and interest of a governmental or other educational loan incurred by a physician who agrees to provide services to the institutions.

Under the program, the Department and physician must enter into a contract in which:

(1) The physician agrees to provide a scope of medical or osteopathic services for a specified number of hours per week and a specified number of years;

(2) The Department agrees to repay all or a specified portion of the principal and interest of a governmental or other educational loan if the physician fulfills the service obligation and the expenses were incurred while the physician was in school and was used for tuition, other educational expenses, and room and board; and

(3) The physician agrees to pay the Department a specified amount as damages if the physician fails to comply with the contract terms.

The contract may include any other agreed upon terms.

The Department must adopt rules under the Administrative Procedure Act to establish the criteria for designating institutions that will be supported under the program, selecting physicians, determining the portion of a physician's loan the Department agrees to repay, determining reasonable amounts for other school expenses and room and board, procedures for monitoring compliance with the terms, and any other necessary criteria.



A physician is eligible to participate if the physician attended a medical or osteopathic medical school that either was (1) located in the U.S. and accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association or (2) located outside the U.S. and acknowledged by the World Health Organization and verified by a member state of that Organization.

Ohio Veterans' Homes – bingo

(R.C. 5907.18)

The act notwithstanding the Charitable Bingo Law to allow Ohio Veterans' Homes to conduct bingo for the residents of the home. The homes can only conduct bingo if the following conditions are met:

- All bingo games are conducted only on the premises of the home;
- All participants are residents of the home and are at least 18 years old;
- No bingo game operators can receive compensation for acting as an operator;
- Participants do not pay any money or thing of value, including an admission fee, or any fee for bingo cards or sheets, objects to cover the spaces, or other devices used in playing bingo, for the privilege of participating in the bingo game, or to defray costs of the game, or pay tips or make donations during or immediately before or after the game;
- Individual prizes awarded during a bingo game do not exceed \$100 and the total value of all prizes awarded during the game do not exceed \$500;
- The bingo game is not conducted during or within ten hours of a charitable bingo game, a scheme or game of chance, or an instant bingo, punch boards, or raffles bingo game;
- The bingo games are conducted on different days of the week and not more than twice per calendar week.

Veteran peer counseling network

(R.C. 5902.20)

The act creates a veteran peer counseling network. The purpose of the network is to offer veterans the opportunity to work with other veterans in order to assist with overcoming the issues unique to veterans in Ohio. The act authorizes the Director of



Veterans Services to adopt rules under the Administrative Procedure Act to administer the network.

