

# New Rural Health Care Workforce Laws



## Background

CHA worked on a number of bills during the 2016 legislative session aimed at helping rural communities meet the health needs of their residents. Two such bills were [House Bill 16-1142 \(HB 1142\)](#), which creates a state income tax credit for licensed Colorado health care professionals who provide uncompensated personalized instruction, training and supervision to one or more graduate students seeking a medical degree at a Colorado institution for higher education for tax years 2017-19; and, [Senate Bill 16-063 \(SB 063\)](#), which authorizes Colorado local governments or designated special districts to enter into an agreement with local governments in a bordering state to provide emergency services.

## What You Need to Know

In order to qualify for the tax credit created by HB 1142, a qualifying health care professional must be practicing in a designated rural or frontier county and must provide a certification form with their income tax return certifying that the he or she has satisfied the requirements for the tax credit. The certification form may be provided by an institution of higher education, hospital or area health education center (AHEC) located in the jurisdiction of the health care professional's practice. AHECs may charge a reasonable fee for providing the certification form.

Under existing law, cities, counties and other political subdivisions within Colorado may cooperate or contract with one another to provide any function, service or facility lawfully authorized to each of the cooperating entities, including the sharing of costs, the imposition of taxes or the incurring of debt. SB 063 extended this function to out-of-state local governments. The law also extends immunity from liability protections to non-Colorado residents providing emergency services under one of these agreements. One caveat to SB 063 is that if the Governor declares an emergency and activates the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, any provision of the agreement that conflicts with the compact is void.

## Additional Resources

- [HB 1142 Fiscal Note](#)
- [SB 063 Fiscal Note](#)
- [“Tax Incentives Aim to Attract Primary Care Preceptors,” American Academy of Family Physicians](#)
- [Emergency Management Assistance Compact website](#)
- Both bills took effect on Aug. 10, 2016.

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