

# Senate File 261 - Introduced

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY SODDERS and NOBLE

(COMPANION TO LSB 2492HH  
BY WESSEL=KROESCHELL)

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a pilot physician assistant mental health  
2 fellowship program and making appropriations.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
4 TLSB 2492SS 83  
5 jp/nh/5

PAG LIN

1 1 Section 1. PILOT PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT MENTAL HEALTH  
1 2 FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM == APPROPRIATIONS.  
1 3 1. A pilot physician assistant mental health fellowship  
1 4 program is established to be administered by the department of  
1 5 public health with assistance from the college student aid  
1 6 commission in accordance with this section. The purpose of  
1 7 the program is to determine the effect of making available  
1 8 specialized training and support for physician assistants in  
1 9 providing mental health services on the efforts to address  
1 10 Iowa's shortage of mental health professionals.  
1 11 2. The program shall provide for all of the following:  
1 12 a. Collaboration with a 220-bed hospital serving a  
1 13 13-county area in central Iowa that provides a clinic at the  
1 14 Iowa veterans home, a private nonprofit agency headquartered  
1 15 in a city with a population of more than 190,000 that operates  
1 16 a freestanding psychiatric medical institution for children, a  
1 17 private university with a medical school educating osteopathic  
1 18 physicians located in a city with a population of more than  
1 19 190,000, the Iowa veterans home, and any other clinical  
1 20 partner designated for the program. Population figures used  
1 21 in this paragraph refer to the most recent certified federal  
1 22 census. The clinical partners shall provide supervision,  
1 23 clinical experience, training, and other support for the  
1 24 program and physician assistant students participating in the  
1 25 program.  
1 26 b. Elderly, youth, and general population clinical  
1 27 experiences.  
1 28 c. A fellowship of twelve months for three physician  
1 29 assistant students for each year of the program. The program  
1 30 shall operate for three years, subject to the funding provided  
1 31 for the program.  
1 32 d. Supervision of students participating in the program  
1 33 shall be provided by the university and the other clinical  
1 34 partners participating in the program.  
2 1 e. A student participating in the program shall be  
2 2 eligible for a stipend of not more than \$50,000 for the twelve  
2 3 months of the fellowship plus related fringe benefits. In  
2 4 addition, the students who complete the program and practice  
2 5 in Iowa in mental health professional shortage areas, as  
2 6 defined in section 135.80, shall be eligible for up to \$20,000  
2 7 in loan forgiveness. The stipend and loan forgiveness  
2 8 provisions shall be determined by the department and the  
2 9 commission, in consultation with the clinical partners.  
2 10 f. The state and private entity clinical partners shall  
2 11 regularly evaluate and document the experiences with the  
2 12 approaches utilized and outcomes achieved by the program to  
2 13 identify an optimal model for operating such a program on an  
2 14 ongoing basis. The evaluation process shall include but is  
2 15 not limited to identifying ways the program's clinical and  
2 16 training components could be modified to facilitate other

2 16 student and practicing physician assistants specializing as  
2 17 mental health professionals.  
2 18 3. There is appropriated from the general fund of the  
2 19 state to the department of public health for the following  
2 20 fiscal years the following amounts, or so much thereof as is  
2 21 necessary, to be used for the pilot physician assistant mental  
2 22 health fellowship program in accordance with this section:  
2 23 a. FY 2009=2010 ..... \$ 300,000  
2 24 b. FY 2010=2011 ..... \$ 300,000  
2 25 c. FY 2011=2012 ..... \$ 300,000

2 26 Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in this  
2 27 section that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close  
2 28 of a fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available  
2 29 for expenditure for the purposes designated until the close of  
2 30 the succeeding fiscal year.

2 31 EXPLANATION

2 32 This bill establishes a pilot physician assistant mental  
2 33 health fellowship program to be administered by the department  
2 34 of public health with assistance from the college student aid  
2 35 commission. The purpose of the program is to determine the  
3 1 effect of making available specialized training and support  
3 2 for physician assistants in providing mental health services  
3 3 on efforts to address Iowa's shortage of mental health  
3 4 professionals.

3 5 The program is directed to physician assistant students by  
3 6 providing a 12-month fellowship to three students per year.  
3 7 Supervision of the student participants is to be performed by  
3 8 a collaboration of a university training osteopathic  
3 9 physicians, a hospital in central Iowa, a nonprofit agency  
3 10 which operates a psychiatric medical institution for children,  
3 11 the Iowa veterans home, and other clinical partners. Elderly,  
3 12 youth, and general population clinical experiences are to be  
3 13 provided to the students participating in the program. The  
3 14 participants are eligible for a stipend of up to \$50,000 plus  
3 15 fringe benefits and loan forgiveness of up to \$20,000 if  
3 16 employed in a shortage area when beginning practice. The  
3 17 state agencies and the clinical partners are required to  
3 18 regularly evaluate the program.

3 19 Annual appropriations of \$300,000 are provided for the  
3 20 program for fiscal years 2009=2010, 2010=2011, and 2011=2012.

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