

Senate File 458 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 458
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 285)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the establishment of a psychiatric
- 2 practitioner loan repayment program.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.191 **Psychiatric practitioner**
2 **loan repayment program.**

3 1. For the purposes of this section:

4 *a. "Psychiatric practitioner"* means a psychiatrist licensed
5 pursuant to chapter 148, a psychiatric advanced registered
6 nurse practitioner as defined in section 125.2 or 229.1, or a
7 physician assistant with a certificate of added qualifications
8 in mental health or psychiatry or practicing under the
9 supervision of a psychiatrist.

10 *b. "Qualified provider"* means a community mental health
11 center designated in accordance with chapter 230A, a provider
12 designated to serve as the community mental health center by
13 the county in which the provider is located, or a health care
14 provider that is a nonprofit organization which is exempt from
15 federal income taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the
16 Internal Revenue Code serving patients of whom at least forty
17 percent are Medicaid program recipients that is located in an
18 area that is not a federally designated health professional
19 shortage area.

20 2. The department shall establish a psychiatric
21 practitioner loan repayment program to provide loan repayment
22 to psychiatric practitioners who comply with the requirements
23 of the program and are employed by qualified providers.

24 3. An applicant for loan repayment under this section shall,
25 in accordance with the rules of the department, do all of the
26 following:

27 *a.* Complete and file an application, including any
28 information required by the department. The applicant shall
29 be responsible for the prompt submission of any information
30 required by the department.

31 *b.* Complete and return, on a form approved by the
32 department, an affidavit of practice verifying that the
33 applicant is a psychiatric practitioner employed by a qualified
34 provider.

35 4. A program agreement shall provide that in order to

1 receive loan repayment under this section, the individual shall
2 agree to engage in practice as a psychiatric practitioner with
3 a qualified provider for a period of at least four consecutive
4 years.

5 5. *a.* A psychiatric practitioner who meets the requirements
6 of this section is eligible for loan repayments for not more
7 than four consecutive years.

8 *b.* The annual amount of loan repayment awarded to a
9 psychiatric practitioner under this section shall be based on
10 the amount of the psychiatric practitioner's outstanding loans
11 and shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars for each
12 completed full-time work year which commences upon employment
13 with a qualified provider. For psychiatric practitioners who
14 work less than full-time, the loan repayment shall not exceed
15 an amount that is prorated according to the number of hours
16 worked.

17 *c.* A psychiatric practitioner receiving loan repayment
18 under this section shall file an initial application with the
19 department and shall submit information annually as required by
20 the department on the basis of which the applicant's continued
21 eligibility for the loan repayment program will be evaluated
22 and determined.

23 6. Moneys appropriated for the program shall be deposited
24 in the health care workforce shortage fund created in section
25 135.175, and notwithstanding section 135.175, subsection 6,
26 paragraph "c", are appropriated to the department specifically
27 to be used for the purposes of the program.

28 7. The department shall submit in a report to the general
29 assembly by January 1, annually, the number of psychiatric
30 practitioners who received loan repayments pursuant to this
31 section, the amount paid to each psychiatric practitioner under
32 this section, and any other information the department deems
33 appropriate.

34 8. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
35 to administer this section.

1 of added qualifications in mental health or psychiatry or
2 practicing under the supervision of a psychiatrist; and
3 "qualified provider" as a community mental health center, a
4 provider designated to serve as the community mental health
5 center by the county in which the provider is located, or
6 a 501(c)(3) nonprofit mental health provider that serves
7 patients, of whom at least 40 percent are Medicaid program
8 recipients that is located in an area that is not a federally
9 designated health professional shortage area.

10 The bill requires an applicant to complete and file an
11 application, including any information required by the
12 department, and complete and return on a form approved by
13 the department, an affidavit of practice verifying that the
14 applicant is a psychiatric practitioner employed by a qualified
15 provider.

16 The program agreement is to provide that in order to
17 receive loan repayment, the individual shall agree to engage
18 in practice as a psychiatric practitioner with a qualified
19 provider for a period of at least four consecutive years.

20 A psychiatric practitioner is eligible for loan repayments
21 for not more than four consecutive years. The annual amount
22 of the loan repayment awarded shall be based on the amount of
23 the psychiatric practitioner's outstanding loans and shall not
24 exceed \$25,000 for each completed full-time work year which
25 commences upon employment with a qualified provider. For
26 psychiatric practitioners who work less than full-time, the
27 loan repayment shall not exceed an amount that is prorated
28 according to the number of hours worked.

29 A psychiatric practitioner receiving loan repayment shall
30 file an initial application and shall submit information,
31 annually, as required by the department on the basis of which
32 the applicant's continued eligibility for the loan repayment
33 program will be evaluated and determined.

34 The bill provides that moneys appropriated for the program
35 shall be deposited in the health care workforce shortage fund

1 and are appropriated to the department specifically to be used
2 for the purposes of the program.

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4 the general assembly by January 1, annually, the number of
5 psychiatric practitioners who received loan repayments, the
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7 information the department deems appropriate.

8 The department is required to adopt rules to administer the
9 bill.