

House File 630 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 630

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**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to mental health supports and services for  
2 children and adults, including the establishment of a mental  
3 health professional fellowship program.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 135.175, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
2 2019, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. A health care workforce support initiative is established  
4 to provide for the coordination and support of various efforts  
5 to address the health care workforce shortage in this state.  
6 This initiative shall include the medical residency training  
7 state matching grants program created in [section 135.176](#),  
8 the mental health professional fellowship program created in  
9 section 135.177, the nurse residency state matching grants  
10 program created in [section 135.178](#), and the fulfilling Iowa's  
11 need for dentists matching grant program created in section  
12 135.179.

13 Sec. 2. Section 135.175, subsection 5, Code 2019, is amended  
14 by adding the following new paragraph:

15 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. The mental health professional fellowship  
16 program account. The mental health professional fellowship  
17 program account shall be under the control of the department  
18 and the moneys in the account shall be used for the purposes of  
19 the mental health professional fellowship program as specified  
20 in section 135.177. Moneys in the account shall consist of  
21 moneys appropriated or allocated for deposit in or received  
22 by the fund or the account and specifically dedicated to the  
23 mental health professional fellowship program or the account  
24 for the purposes of the account.

25 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 135.177 **Mental health professional**  
26 **fellowship program.**

27 1. For the purposes of this section, "*mental health*  
28 *professional shortage area*" means a geographic area in this  
29 state that has been designated by the United States department  
30 of health and human services, health resources and services  
31 administration, bureau of health professionals, as having a  
32 shortage of mental health professionals.

33 2. The department, in cooperation with the college  
34 student aid commission, shall establish a mental health  
35 professional fellowship program in accordance with this

1 section. Funding for the program may be provided through  
2 the health care workforce shortage fund or the mental health  
3 professional fellowship program account created in section  
4 135.175. The purpose of the program is to determine the  
5 effect of specialized training and support for mental health  
6 professionals in providing mental health services to address  
7 Iowa's shortage of mental health professionals.

8 3. The program shall provide for all of the following:

9 a. Collaboration between Iowa institutions of higher  
10 education and mental health professional programs to educate  
11 mental health professionals.

12 b. Elderly, youth, and general population clinical  
13 experiences, with a primary emphasis on youth clinical  
14 experiences and a secondary emphasis on elderly and general  
15 population clinical experiences.

16 c. Supervision of students participating in the program  
17 provided by Iowa institutions of higher education and other  
18 clinical partners participating in the program.

19 4. A contract for the program shall stipulate the time  
20 period the mental health professional shall practice in  
21 a mental health professional shortage area in this state.  
22 In addition, the contract shall stipulate that the mental  
23 health professional repay any funds paid on the mental health  
24 professional's behalf by the program if the mental health  
25 professional is unable to fulfill the time period in the  
26 contract.

27 5. State and private entity clinical partners shall  
28 regularly evaluate and document their experiences with the  
29 approaches utilized and outcomes achieved by the program  
30 to identify an optimal model for operating the program.  
31 The evaluation process shall include but is not limited to  
32 identifying ways the program's clinical and training components  
33 could be modified to facilitate other students and practicing  
34 mental health professionals specializing as mental health  
35 professionals.

1     Sec. 4. Section 135H.3, subsection 1, Code 2019, is amended  
2 to read as follows:

3     1. A psychiatric medical institution for children shall  
4 utilize a team of professionals to direct an organized program  
5 of diagnostic services, psychiatric services, nursing care,  
6 and rehabilitative services to meet the needs of residents  
7 in accordance with a medical care plan developed for each  
8 resident. The membership of the team of professionals ~~may~~  
9 shall include but is not limited to ~~an advanced registered~~  
10 ~~nurse practitioner or a physician assistant~~ mental health  
11 professionals. ~~Social~~ Psychiatric, social, and rehabilitative  
12 services shall be provided ~~under the direction of~~ by a  
13 ~~qualified~~ mental health professional.

14     Sec. 5. Section 225C.52, subsection 1, Code 2019, is amended  
15 to read as follows:

16     1. Establishing a comprehensive community-based mental  
17 health services system for children and youth is part of  
18 fulfilling the requirements of the division and the commission  
19 to facilitate a comprehensive, continuous, and integrated state  
20 mental health and disability services plan in accordance with  
21 sections 225C.4, 225C.6, and 225C.6A, and other provisions  
22 of this chapter. The purpose of establishing the children's  
23 system is to improve access for children and youth with  
24 serious emotional disturbances and youth with other qualifying  
25 mental health disorders to mental health treatment, services,  
26 and other support in the least restrictive setting possible  
27 so the children and youth can live with their families and  
28 remain in their communities. The children's system is also  
29 intended to meet the needs of children and youth who have  
30 mental health disorders that co-occur with substance abuse,  
31 intellectual disability, developmental disabilities, or  
32 other disabilities. The children's system shall emphasize  
33 community-level collaborative efforts between children and  
34 youth and the families and the state's systems of education,  
35 child welfare, juvenile justice, health care, substance abuse,

1 and mental health. The children's system shall ensure the  
2 children and youth served are provided treatment by a mental  
3 health professional as defined in section 228.1 or a person who  
4 has obtained an advanced degree that will qualify the person as  
5 a mental health professional following a period of professional  
6 supervision.

7 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **279.70A Suicide prevention committee.**

8 1. The board of directors of a school district shall  
9 require all schools in the school district to develop suicide  
10 prevention committees. Each suicide prevention committee shall  
11 include a mental health professional, a parent or guardian,  
12 a current student of the public school, and a member of the  
13 clergy of a religious denomination within the school district.

14 2. A suicide prevention committee shall perform all of the  
15 following duties:

16 a. Collect, review, and analyze the circumstances related to  
17 the suicide of a child in the school district.

18 b. Recommend to the school district suicide and postvention  
19 services to be offered to students and school personnel. For  
20 purposes of this paragraph, "*postvention*" means the same as  
21 defined in section 256.7, subsection 33.

22 c. Assist all school districts following the suicide of a  
23 child.

24 d. Develop strategies to increase awareness for increased  
25 child suicide attempts after a child's suicide in the school  
26 district.

27 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. **279.70B Children's mental health**  
28 **services.**

29 The board of directors of a school district may develop and  
30 implement mental health services at each attendance center in  
31 the district. The school district may coordinate with mental  
32 health professionals within the school district to provide  
33 services at the attendance center for students who are in need  
34 of mental health services.

35 Sec. 8. **ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES.** The departments

1 of human services and public health shall develop information  
2 related to the identification of adverse childhood experiences.  
3 The information shall be distributed to the board of directors  
4 of a school district for distribution during required training  
5 pursuant to section 279.70. The departments shall provide  
6 support services to a school district following media reports  
7 relating to adverse childhood experiences impacting ten or more  
8 children within the school district or a report of a suicide of  
9 a child from the school district.

10 Sec. 9. CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION —

11 DISTRIBUTION. The department of public health shall develop  
12 information relating to the identification of the early signs  
13 and symptoms of mental health concerns in children and shall  
14 coordinate with existing statewide mental health hotlines to  
15 distribute the information to members of the public utilizing  
16 telephone and text messaging systems.

17 EXPLANATION

18 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
19 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

20 This bill relates to mental health supports and services for  
21 children and adults, including the establishment of a mental  
22 health professional fellowship program.

23 MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AND  
24 ACCOUNT. The bill requires the department of public health,  
25 in cooperation with the college student aid commission,  
26 to establish a mental health professional fellowship  
27 program. The purpose of the program is to determine the  
28 effect of specialized training and support for mental health  
29 professionals in providing mental health services to address  
30 Iowa's shortage of mental health professionals. The bill  
31 requires the program to provide for collaboration between  
32 Iowa institutions of higher education and mental health  
33 professional programs to educate mental health professionals;  
34 elderly, youth, and general population clinical experiences,  
35 with a primary emphasis on youth clinical experiences and a

1 secondary emphasis on elderly and general population clinical  
2 experiences; and supervision of students in the program by  
3 Iowa institutions of higher education and other clinical  
4 partners. The bill provides that a contract for the program  
5 shall stipulate the time period the mental health professional  
6 shall practice in a mental health professional shortage area  
7 in this state. In addition, the contract shall stipulate  
8 that the mental health professional repay any funds paid on  
9 the mental health professional's behalf by the program if the  
10 mental health professional is unable to fulfill the time period  
11 in the contract. The bill provides that state and private  
12 entity clinical partners are required to regularly evaluate and  
13 document their experiences with the approaches utilized and  
14 outcomes achieved by the program to identify an optimal model  
15 for operating the program. The evaluation process is required  
16 to include but is not limited to identifying the ways the  
17 program's clinical and training components could be modified  
18 to facilitate other students and practicing mental health  
19 professionals specializing as mental health professionals.

20 Current Code section 135.175 establishes a health care  
21 workforce support initiative to provide for the coordination  
22 and support of various efforts to address the health care  
23 workforce shortage in Iowa. The initiative includes the  
24 medical residency training state matching grants program;  
25 the nurse residence state matching grants program; and the  
26 fulfilling Iowa's need for dentists matching grant program.  
27 The bill provides the health care workforce support initiative  
28 shall also provide coordination and support to the mental  
29 health professional fellowship program.

30 CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. Under current Code,  
31 a psychiatric medical institution for children (PMIC) shall  
32 utilize a team of professionals to direct an organized program  
33 of diagnostic services, psychiatric services, nursing care,  
34 and rehabilitative services to meet the needs of residents  
35 in accordance with a medical care plan developed for each

1 resident. The membership of the team may include an advanced  
2 registered nurse practitioner or a physician assistant.  
3 Social and rehabilitative services shall be provided under the  
4 direction of a qualified mental health professional. The bill  
5 amends current law to provide the membership of a PMIC team  
6 of professionals shall include but is not limited to mental  
7 health professionals. The bill also provides that psychiatric,  
8 social, and rehabilitative services shall be provided by a  
9 mental health professional.

10 Current Code section 225C.52 establishes the purpose for  
11 the community-based mental health services system for children  
12 and youth. The bill amends the purpose to provide that the  
13 children's system shall ensure that the children and youth  
14 served are provided treatment by a mental health professional  
15 or by a person who holds an advanced degree that will qualify  
16 the person as a mental health professional following a required  
17 period of supervision.

18 The bill provides the board of directors of a school  
19 district may develop and implement mental health services for  
20 students at each attendance center in the district. The bill  
21 provides the school district may coordinate with mental health  
22 professionals within the school district to provide services at  
23 the attendance center for students who are in need of mental  
24 health services.

25 SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMITTEES. The bill directs the board  
26 of directors of a school district to require all schools in the  
27 school district to develop suicide prevention committees. Each  
28 committee shall include a mental health professional, a parent  
29 or guardian, a current student of the public school, and a  
30 member of the clergy of a religious denomination in the school  
31 district.

32 A suicide prevention committee is required to collect,  
33 review, and analyze the circumstances related to the suicide  
34 of a child in the school district, recommend to the school  
35 district suicide prevention and postvention services to



1 be offered to students and school personnel, assist school  
2 districts following the suicide of a child, and develop  
3 strategies to increase awareness for increased child suicide  
4 attempts after a child's suicide in the school district.

5     ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES. The bill requires the  
6 departments of human services and public health to develop  
7 information related to the identification of adverse childhood  
8 experiences. The departments are required to distribute such  
9 information to the board of directors of a school district  
10 for distribution during required training pursuant to Code  
11 section 279.70 (relating to training on suicide prevention,  
12 adverse childhood experiences identification, and toxic stress  
13 response mitigation strategies for school personnel). The  
14 bill requires the departments to provide support services to  
15 a school district following media reports relating to adverse  
16 childhood experiences impacting 10 or more children within the  
17 school district or a report of a suicide of a child from the  
18 school district.

19     CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION — DISTRIBUTION. The  
20 bill requires the department of public health to develop  
21 information relating to the identification of the early signs  
22 and symptoms of mental health concerns in children and to  
23 coordinate with existing statewide mental health hotlines to  
24 distribute the information to members of the public utilizing  
25 telephone and text messaging systems.