

**House File 19 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 19

BY KRESSIG

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to eligibility for the mental health

2 professional loan repayment program.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 261.117, subsection 1, paragraph d, Code  
2 2023, is amended to read as follows:

3 *d.* "Eligible practice area site" means a ~~city in Iowa~~  
4 ~~that is within a federal mental health shortage area, as~~  
5 ~~designated by the health resources and services administration~~  
6 ~~of the United States department of health and human services~~  
7 community-based mental health provider location including a  
8 community mental health center.

9 Sec. 2. Section 261.117, subsection 2, Code 2023, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 2. *Program established.* A mental health professional loan  
12 repayment program is established to be administered by the  
13 commission for purposes of providing loan repayments for mental  
14 health professionals who agree to practice in an eligible  
15 practice area site and meet the requirements of [this section](#).

16 Sec. 3. Section 261.117, subsection 3, paragraphs a and b,  
17 Code 2023, are amended to read as follows:

18 *a.* The mental health professional and the commission shall  
19 enter into a program agreement. Under the agreement, to  
20 receive loan repayments pursuant to [subsection 5](#), a mental  
21 health professional shall agree to and shall engage in either  
22 of the following:

23 (1) Full-time practice as a mental health professional in an  
24 eligible practice area site for a period of five consecutive  
25 years after entering into the agreement.

26 (2) Part-time practice as a mental health professional in an  
27 eligible practice area site for a period of seven consecutive  
28 years after entering into the agreement.

29 *b.* A mental health professional who entered into a program  
30 agreement pursuant to paragraph "*a*" may apply to the commission  
31 to amend the agreement to allow the mental health professional  
32 to switch to part-time practice or full-time practice, as  
33 applicable. The commission and the mental health professional  
34 may consent to amend the agreement under which the mental  
35 health professional shall engage in part-time practice in an

1 eligible practice ~~area~~ site for an extended period of part-time  
2 practice determined by the commission to be proportional to  
3 the amount of full-time practice remaining under the original  
4 agreement.

5

EXPLANATION

6  
7

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

8 This bill relates to eligibility for the mental health  
9 loan repayment program. Under current law, loan repayment is  
10 available to mental health professionals who agree, in part,  
11 to practice in an "eligible practice area" which is defined as  
12 a city in Iowa that is within a federal mental health shortage  
13 area, as designated by the health resources and services  
14 administration of the United States department of health and  
15 human services. The bill instead provides that loan repayment  
16 is available to mental health professionals who agree, in part,  
17 to practice in an "eligible practice site" which is defined as  
18 a community-based mental health provider location including a  
19 community mental health center.