

**House Study Bill 690 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
BILL BY CHAIRPERSON MEYER)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the inclusion of psychiatrists in the mental  
2 health professional loan repayment program.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.225, subsection 1, paragraph e, Code  
2 2024, is amended to read as follows:

3 e. "*Mental health professional*" means a either of the  
4 following:

5 (1) A nonprescribing individual who meets all of the  
6 following qualifications:

7 ~~(1)~~ (a) The individual holds at least a master's degree  
8 from an eligible institution in a mental health field,  
9 including psychology, counseling and guidance, social work,  
10 marriage and family therapy, or mental health counseling.

11 ~~(2)~~ (b) The individual holds a current Iowa license if  
12 practicing in a field covered by an Iowa licensure law.

13 ~~(3)~~ (c) The individual has at least two years of  
14 post-degree clinical experience, supervised by another  
15 individual in the mental health field, in assessing mental  
16 health needs and problems and in providing appropriate mental  
17 health services.

18 ~~(4)~~ (d) The individual is not eligible for the ~~rural Iowa~~  
19 ~~advanced registered nurse practitioner and physician assistant~~  
20 ~~loan repayment program established pursuant to section 261.114~~  
21 health care award program pursuant to section 256.224.

22 (2) An individual who is a psychiatrist who holds a current  
23 Iowa license.

24 Sec. 2. Section 256.225, subsection 3, paragraph c, Code  
25 2024, is amended to read as follows:

26 c. The commission shall give priority to mental health  
27 professionals who are residents of Iowa and, if the mental  
28 health professional is a psychiatrist, the commission shall  
29 give priority to a psychiatrist who attended and earned a  
30 medical degree from a medical school or college of osteopathic  
31 medicine and surgery in Iowa, or who completed an accredited  
32 graduate medical education residency program in Iowa.

33 Additionally, if requested by the adjutant general, the  
34 commission shall give priority to mental health professionals  
35 who are members of the Iowa national guard.

1      Sec. 3. Section 256.225, subsection 5, Code 2024, is amended  
2 to read as follows:

3      5. *Loan repayment amounts.* The annual amount of loan  
4 repayment the commission may make to a mental health  
5 professional who enters into a program agreement pursuant  
6 to subsection 3, if the mental health professional is in  
7 compliance with obligations under the agreement, shall be eight  
8 as follows:

9      a. Eight thousand dollars for an eligible loan for a mental  
10 health professional who is a nonprescribing individual as  
11 specified in subsection 1, paragraph "e", subparagraph (1). The  
12 total amount of loan repayments from the commission to a mental  
13 health professional under this subsection paragraph shall not  
14 exceed forty thousand dollars.

15      b. Fifty thousand dollars for an eligible loan for a mental  
16 health professional who is a psychiatrist as specified in  
17 subsection 1, paragraph "e", subparagraph (2). The total amount  
18 of loan repayments from the commission to a psychiatrist under  
19 this paragraph shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars.

20                                      EXPLANATION

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

23      This bill relates to the inclusion of psychiatrists in the  
24 mental health professional loan repayment program.

25      The bill amends the definition of "mental health  
26 professional" under Code section 256.225 (mental health  
27 professional loan repayment program) to mean either a current  
28 nonprescribing individual who meets specified conditions, or  
29 an individual who is a psychiatrist who holds a current Iowa  
30 license.

31      Under current law, the college student aid commission  
32 (commission) is to give priority under the program to  
33 mental health professionals who are residents of Iowa and,  
34 if requested by the adjutant general, to mental health  
35 professionals who are members of the national guard. The

1 bill provides that if the mental health professional is  
2 a psychiatrist, the commission shall give priority to a  
3 psychiatrist who attended and earned a medical degree from a  
4 medical school or college of osteopathic medicine and surgery  
5 in Iowa, or who completed an accredited graduate medical  
6 education residency program in Iowa.

7 The bill provides that the annual loan repayment amount for a  
8 psychiatrist under the bill is \$50,000 for an eligible loan and  
9 the total amount of loan repayments from the commission to a  
10 psychiatrist under the program shall not exceed \$200,000.