

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 69—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE WASHOE REGIONAL
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Expands the loan repayment program administered by the Nevada Health Service Corps to include certain providers of behavioral health care. (BDR 34-399)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to behavioral health; making certain providers of behavioral health care eligible to participate in the program of loan repayment administered by the Nevada Health Service Corps; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes the University of Nevada School of Medicine to establish a Nevada Health Service Corps to encourage practitioners of certain health care professions to practice in areas of Nevada in which a shortage of that type of practitioner exists. (NRS 396.900) Under existing law, the University of Nevada School of Medicine may authorize the Nevada Health Service Corps to administer a program under which money for loans is repaid on behalf of a practitioner for each year he or she practices in an area of Nevada in which a shortage of that type of practitioner exists. (NRS 396.903) **Section 8** of this bill expands that program to also include the repayment of loans on behalf of providers of behavioral health care who commit to practicing on a full-time basis for at least 2 years in Nevada: (1) in a hospital or other inpatient setting, an outpatient setting or providing crisis management services; (2) as a full-time faculty member with teaching responsibilities in a program of education or training for practitioners or providers of behavioral health care at an institution within the Nevada System of Higher Education; or (3) providing behavioral health care to pupils in kindergarten through 12th grade in public schools in this State. In order to be eligible for the program, **section 8** requires a provider of behavioral health care who practices in a



hospital, other inpatient setting or outpatient setting or provides crisis management services to: (1) accept certain forms of payment commonly used by elderly or economically disadvantaged patients; and (2) provide services to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. **Sections 3 and 4** of this bill define certain relevant terms, and **sections 2 and 5** of this bill make changes necessary to apply those definitions to provisions governing the Nevada Health Service Corps. **Sections 6 and 7** of this bill expand the purposes of the Nevada Health Service Corps to include certain purposes relating to the duties prescribed by **section 8**, as those duties apply to providers of behavioral health care. **Section 9** of this bill makes an appropriation from the State General Fund for allocation to the Nevada Health Service Corps to repay loans on behalf of providers of behavioral health care in accordance with **section 8**.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act.

Sec. 2. *As used in this section, NRS 396.899 to 396.903, inclusive, and sections 3 and 4 of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 396.899 and sections 3 and 4 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.*

Sec. 3. *“Program” means the program administered pursuant to NRS 396.903.*

Sec. 4. *“Provider of behavioral health care” means a person who is:*

1. Licensed, certified or registered pursuant to chapter 641, 641A, 641B, 641C or 641D of NRS; or

2. Licensed as a physician, physician assistant or registered nurse and practices in psychiatry, addiction medicine or another specialty relating to behavioral health.

Sec. 5. NRS 396.899 is hereby amended to read as follows:

396.899 ~~{As used in NRS 396.899 to 396.903, inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires, “practitioner”}~~ *“Practitioner”* has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 439A.0195.

Sec. 6. NRS 396.900 is hereby amended to read as follows:

396.900 The University of Nevada School of Medicine may establish a Nevada Health Service Corps to encourage ~~{practitioners}~~:

1. Practitioners to practice in areas of Nevada in which a shortage of that type of practitioner exists.

2. Providers of behavioral health care to practice in Nevada:

(a) In hospitals or other inpatient settings, outpatient settings or providing crisis management services;



(b) As full-time faculty members with teaching responsibilities in programs of education or training for practitioners or providers of behavioral health care at institutions within the System; or

(c) Providing behavioral health care to pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, at public schools in this State.

Sec. 7. NRS 396.901 is hereby amended to read as follows:

396.901 The primary purposes of the Nevada Health Service Corps must be to:

1. Recruit practitioners *and providers of behavioral health care* for participation in the program;

2. Designate areas of Nevada in which a shortage of each type of practitioner exists;

3. Match practitioners with the designated areas ~~HH~~ and ~~HH—Help~~ *help* practitioners to negotiate contracts to serve in the designated areas ~~HH~~; and

4. *Match providers of behavioral health care with positions described in paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS 396.903 and help providers of behavioral health care negotiate contracts to serve in those positions.*

Sec. 8. NRS 396.903 is hereby amended to read as follows:

396.903 1. The University of Nevada School of Medicine may authorize the Nevada Health Service Corps to administer a program under which money for loans is repaid on behalf of ~~HH~~:

(a) A practitioner for each year he or she practices in an area of Nevada in which a shortage of that type of practitioner exists, as determined by the Nevada Office of Rural Health within the University of Nevada School of Medicine and the Nevada Health Service Corps.

(b) A provider of behavioral health care for each year he or she practices in Nevada on a full-time basis:

(1) In a hospital or other inpatient setting, an outpatient setting or providing crisis management services;

(2) As a full-time faculty member with teaching responsibilities in a program of education or training, including, without limitation, a residency program for practitioners or providers of behavioral health care, at an institution within the System; or

(3) Providing behavioral health care to pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, at a public school in this State.

2. To qualify for the program, a practitioner, *other than a provider of behavioral health care*, required to be licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 630, 630A, 633 or 634 of NRS must have completed his or her primary care residency and hold an active license issued pursuant to chapter 630, 630A, 633 or 634 of NRS.



1 All other practitioners *and all providers of behavioral health care*
2 must have completed training in a certified program and have an
3 active license, certification or registration from the State of Nevada.

4 *3. To be eligible for the program pursuant to paragraph (b) of*
5 *subsection 1:*

6 *(a) A provider of behavioral health care must commit to*
7 *serving in a position described in that paragraph for at least 2*
8 *years; and*

9 *(b) If a provider of behavioral health care is practicing in a*
10 *position described in subparagraph (1) of paragraph (b) of*
11 *subsection 1, the provider of behavioral health care or his or her*
12 *employer must:*

13 *(1) Accept payment through Medicare, Medicaid and, if*
14 *applicable, the Children's Health Insurance Program as full*
15 *payment for services covered by those programs; and*

16 *(2) Provide services to all patients, regardless of the ability*
17 *of a patient to pay.*

18 **Sec. 9.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State
19 General Fund to the Office of Finance in the Office of the Governor
20 for allocation to the Nevada Health Service Corps established
21 pursuant to NRS 396.900 the sum of \$1,500,000 to repay loans on
22 behalf of providers of behavioral health care pursuant to paragraph
23 (b) of subsection 1 of NRS 396.903, as amended by section 8 of this
24 act.

25 2. Any remaining balance of the money appropriated by
26 subsection 1 that is unencumbered or unexpended at the end of a
27 fiscal year does not revert to the State General Fund, must be carried
28 forward to the next fiscal year and is hereby authorized for use in
29 the next fiscal year for the purpose specified in subsection 1.

30 3. As used in this section, "provider of behavioral health care"
31 has the meaning ascribed to it in section 4 of this act.

32 **Sec. 10.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

