

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:

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



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

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

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

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

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

10 **Sec. 4.** *“Provider of behavioral health care” means:*

11 *1. A person who is:*

12 *(a) Licensed, certified or registered pursuant to chapter 641,*
13 *641A, 641B, 641C or 641D of NRS; or*

14 *(b) Licensed as a physician, physician assistant or registered*
15 *nurse and practices in psychiatry, addiction medicine or another*
16 *specialty relating to behavioral health; or*

17 *2. A school psychologist or school social worker, as those*
18 *terms are defined in NRS 385.007.*

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

20 396.899 ~~[As used in NRS 396.899 to 396.903, inclusive, unless~~
21 ~~the context otherwise requires, “practitioner”]~~ **“Practitioner”** has
22 the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 439A.0195.

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

24 396.900 The University of Nevada School of Medicine may
25 establish a Nevada Health Service Corps to encourage
26 ~~[practitioners]~~ :

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

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



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

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

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

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

10 396.901 The primary purposes of the Nevada Health Service
11 Corps must be to:

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

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

16 3. Match practitioners with the designated areas ~~{};~~ and
17 ~~{4.—Help}~~ *help* practitioners to negotiate contracts to serve in
18 the designated areas ~~{};~~ *and*

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

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

24 396.903 1. The University of Nevada School of Medicine
25 may authorize the Nevada Health Service Corps to administer a
26 program under which money for loans is repaid on behalf of ~~{a}~~:

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

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

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

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

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

44 2. To qualify for the program, a practitioner, *other than a*
45 *provider of behavioral health care*, required to be licensed pursuant



1 to the provisions of chapter 630, 630A, 633 or 634 of NRS must
2 have completed his or her primary care residency and hold an active
3 license issued pursuant to chapter 630, 630A, 633 or 634 of NRS.
4 All other practitioners *and all providers of behavioral health care*
5 must have completed training in a certified program and have an
6 active license, certification or registration from the State of Nevada.

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

9 *(a) A provider of behavioral health care must commit to*
10 *servicing in a position described in that paragraph for at least 2*
11 *years; and*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

