

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 HOUSE BILL 3449

By: Boatman

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to mental health workforce
8 development; amending Section 1, Chapter 112, O.S.L.
9 2023 (63 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 3278.1), which
10 relates to Oklahoma State University Medical
11 Authority Behavioral Health Workforce Development
12 Fund; creating a revolving fund for the University
13 Hospitals Authority and Trust; providing purpose of
14 pilot program; and declaring an emergency.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 112, O.S.L.
17 2023 (63 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 3278.1), is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 Section 3278.1 A. There is hereby created in the State
20 Treasury a revolving fund for the Oklahoma State University Medical
21 Authority to be designated the "Oklahoma State University Medical
22 Authority Behavioral Health Workforce Development Fund". The fund
23 shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations,
24 and shall consist of appropriated revenues and private endowments.

All monies accruing to the credit of said fund are hereby
appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma State

1 University Medical Authority for the purpose of designing and
2 implementing a pilot program at behavioral health facilities, the
3 purpose of which is to provide for behavioral health workforce
4 development and access to behavioral health professionals as
5 provided by law. The purpose of the pilot program includes, but is
6 not limited to, bed conversion and new beds; renovations at
7 behavioral health facilities to accommodate new licensed acute or
8 residential treatment beds; reallocation of beds from adult acute to
9 child/adolescent acute beds; relocation assistance for licensed
10 behavioral health staff currently living out of state; upskilling
11 existing behavioral health workforce; adding new ~~psychiatric~~
12 residents psychiatric and psychological residencies, internships and
13 post-doctoral training programs; providing social work scholarships;
14 providing mental health nursing scholarships; creating one-time
15 private-sector workforce innovation grants; providing licensure
16 preparation assistance; and creating a behavioral health trauma fund
17 for intensive home and community-based services. Expenditures from
18 the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer
19 against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the
20 Office of Management and Enterprise Services for approval and
21 payment.

22 B. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
23 fund for the University Hospitals Authority and Trust to be
24 designated the "University Hospitals Authority and Trust Behavioral
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1 Health Workforce Development Fund". The fund shall be a continuing
2 fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of
3 appropriated revenues and private endowments. All monies accruing
4 to the credit of said fund are hereby appropriated and may be
5 budgeted and expended by the University Hospitals Authority and
6 Trust for the purpose of designing and implementing a pilot program
7 at behavioral health facilities, the purpose of which is to provide
8 for behavioral health workforce development and access to behavioral
9 health professionals as provided by law. The purpose of the pilot
10 program includes, but is not limited to, bed conversion and new
11 beds; renovations at behavioral health facilities to accommodate new
12 licensed acute or residential treatment beds; reallocation of beds
13 from adult acute to child/adolescent acute beds; relocation
14 assistance for licensed behavioral health staff currently living out
15 of state; upskilling existing behavioral health workforce; adding
16 new psychiatric and psychological residencies, internships and post-
17 doctoral training programs; providing social work scholarships;
18 providing mental health nursing scholarships; creating one-time
19 private-sector workforce innovation grants; providing licensure
20 preparation assistance; and creating a behavioral health trauma fund
21 for intensive home and community-based services. Expenditures from
22 the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer
23 against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the
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1 Office of Management and Enterprise Services for approval and
2 payment.

3 ~~B.~~ C. The Oklahoma State University Medical Authority and the
4 University Hospitals Authority and Trust shall prepare a report for
5 the Legislature on the results of the first year of funding,
6 including the number of professionals retained and recruited, and
7 the expected benefits of the program. The report shall be delivered
8 to relevant health care committee and appropriations subcommittee
9 chairs following the first full year of implementation.

10 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
11 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
12 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
13 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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