

MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 24, 2017
TO	Board of Psychology
FROM	 Konnor Leitzell Central Services Student Assistant
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #5(b)(1)(D) – AB 1188 (Nazarian) Health Professionals Development: Loan Repayment

Background:

This bill would increase the biennial fee collected at the time of renewal from specified Board of Psychology (Board) and Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) licensees from \$10.00 to \$20.00, which would be deposited in the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund. This bill would also allow licensed professional clinical counselors and professional clinical counselor interns to be eligible for grants to reimburse education loans, and add a fee of \$20.00 at the time of renewal for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors and interns, which would be deposited in the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund. These provisions would become effective July 1, 2018.

This bill would increase the amount of Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund grants available to Board licensees and would help increase access to mental health services in underserved and vulnerable communities in California.

At its April 21 Board Meeting, the Board took a Support position on AB 1188. Since that time, Board staff sent letters of support to legislative offices in preparation for the appropriate Assembly and Senate Committee hearings. At the May 26 Assembly Committee on Appropriations hearing, the bill was amended to include a delayed implementation date of July 1, 2018. AB 1188 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Committee on Appropriations on August 21, 2017.

Location: Senate Appropriations

Status: 7/13/2017 Re-referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations

Votes: 7/12/2017 Senate Committee on Health (7-1-1)
6/19/2017 Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development (9-0-0)
5/31/2017 Assembly Floor (74-1-5)
5/26/2017 Assembly Committee on Appropriations (16-0-1)
4/18/2017 Assembly Committee on Health (14-0-1)
4/04/2017 Assembly Committee on Business and Professions (14-0-2)

Action Requested:

This item is for informational purposes only. No action is requested at this time.

Attachment A: AB 1188 (Nazarian) Text

Attachment B: AB 1188 (Nazarian) Support Letter to Senate Floor

July 19, 2017

The Honorable Kevin de León
President Pro Tempore, Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 1188 (Nazarian) – Health Professions Development: Loan Repayment – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Kevin de León:

At its April 21, 2017 meeting, the Board of Psychology (Board) adopted a **Support** position on AB 1188 (Nazarian). This bill would increase the biennial fee collected at the time of renewal from \$10.00 to \$20.00 for specified licensees of the Board of Psychology (Board) as well as the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS), which would be deposited in the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund.

The Board supports and agrees with the author's desire to increase access to mental health care for underserved communities by providing larger incentives to licensees who are working with these vulnerable populations. The Mental Health Practitioner Fund distributes grants to eligible mental health professionals that work in underserved communities to reimburse educational loans accrued for the purpose of becoming a licensed mental health provider. By increasing the fees deposited to the Mental Health Practitioner Fund, more grants will be awarded to psychologists and other mental health providers, which will result in more providers serving vulnerable populations in underserved communities in California. Additionally, this bill would increase the amount of funds available for loan repayment and therefore assist psychologists and other mental health professionals in reducing their student loan debt.

The Board's mission is to advance quality psychological services for Californians by ensuring ethical and legal practice and supporting the evolution of the profession.

For these reasons, the Board asks for your "**Aye**" vote when AB 1188 is heard on the Senate Floor. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Board's Executive Officer, Antonette Sorrick, at (916) 574-7113. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SC Phillips', with a stylized flourish at the end.

STEPHEN C. PHILLIPS, JD, PsyD
President, Board of Psychology

cc: Members, Senate
Assembly Member Nazarian
Gayle Miller, Policy Consultant, Senate

SEC. 7. *Section 4999.121 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:*

4999.121. (a) *In addition to the fees charged pursuant to Section 4999.120 for the biennial renewal of a license pursuant to Section 4999.102, the board shall collect an additional fee of twenty dollars (\$20) at the time of renewal. The board shall transfer this amount to the Controller who shall deposit the funds in the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund.*

(b) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2018.

SEC. 8. ~~SEC. 5.~~ Section 128454 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

128454. (a) There is hereby created the Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program within the Health Professions Education Foundation.

(b) For purposes of this article, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Licensed mental health service provider" means a psychologist licensed by the Board of Psychology, registered psychologist, postdoctoral psychological assistant, postdoctoral psychology trainee employed in an exempt setting pursuant to Section 2910 of the Business and Professions Code, or employed pursuant to a State Department of Health Care Services waiver pursuant to Section 5751.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, marriage and family therapist, *associate* marriage and family ~~therapist intern,~~ *therapist*, licensed clinical social worker, and associate clinical social worker.

(2) "Mental health professional shortage area" means an area designated as such by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

(c) Commencing January 1, 2005, any licensed mental health service provider, including a mental health service provider who is employed at a publicly funded mental health facility or a public or nonprofit private mental health facility that contracts with a county mental health entity or facility to provide mental health services, who provides direct patient care in a publicly funded facility or a mental health professional shortage area may apply for grants under the program to reimburse his or her educational loans related to a career as a licensed mental health service provider.

(d) The Health Professions Education Foundation shall make recommendations to the director of the office concerning all of the following:

(1) A standard contractual agreement to be signed by the director and any licensed mental health service provider who is serving in a publicly funded facility or a mental health professional shortage area that would require the licensed mental health service provider who receives a grant under the program to work in the publicly funded facility or a mental health professional shortage area for at least one year.

(2) The maximum allowable total grant amount per individual licensed mental health service provider.

(3) The maximum allowable annual grant amount per individual licensed mental health service provider.

(e) The Health Professions Education Foundation shall develop the program, which shall comply with all of the following requirements:

(1) The total amount of grants under the program per individual licensed mental health service provider shall not exceed the amount of educational loans related to a career as a licensed mental health service provider incurred by that provider.

(2) The program shall keep the fees from the different licensed providers separate to ensure that all grants are funded by those fees collected from the corresponding licensed provider groups.

(3) A loan forgiveness grant may be provided in installments proportionate to the amount of the service obligation that has been completed.

(4) The number of persons who may be considered for the program shall be limited by the funds made available pursuant to Section 128458.

(f) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2018, and, as of January 1, 2019, is repealed.

SEC. 9. *Section 128454 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:*

128454. (a) *There is hereby created the Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program within the Health Professions Education Foundation.*

(b) *For purposes of this article, the following definitions shall apply:*

(1) *"Licensed mental health service provider" means a psychologist licensed by the Board of Psychology, registered psychologist, postdoctoral psychological assistant, postdoctoral psychology trainee employed in an exempt setting pursuant to Section 2910 of the Business and Professions Code or employed pursuant to a State Department of Health Care Services waiver pursuant to Section 5751.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, marriage and family therapist, associate marriage and family therapist, licensed clinical social worker, associate clinical social worker, licensed professional clinical counselor, and associate professional clinical counselor.*

(2) *"Mental health professional shortage area" means an area designated as such by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.*

(c) *Commencing January 1, 2005, any licensed mental health service provider, including a mental health service provider who is employed at a publicly funded mental health facility or a public or nonprofit private mental health facility that contracts with a county mental health entity or facility to provide mental health services, who provides direct patient care in a publicly funded facility or a mental health professional shortage area may apply for grants under the program to reimburse his or her educational loans related to a career as a licensed mental health service provider.*

(d) *The Health Professions Education Foundation shall make recommendations to the director of the office concerning all of the following:*

(1) *A standard contractual agreement to be signed by the director and any licensed mental health service provider who is serving in a publicly funded facility or a mental health professional shortage area that would require the licensed mental health service provider who receives a grant under the program to work in the publicly funded facility or a mental health professional shortage area for at least one year.*

(2) *The maximum allowable total grant amount per individual licensed mental health service provider.*

(3) *The maximum allowable annual grant amount per individual licensed mental health service provider.*

(e) *The Health Professions Education Foundation shall develop the program, which shall comply with all of the following requirements:*

(1) *The total amount of grants under the program per individual licensed mental health service provider shall not exceed the amount of educational loans related to a career as a licensed mental health service provider incurred by that provider.*

(2) *The program shall keep the fees from the different licensed providers separate to ensure that all grants are funded by those fees collected from the corresponding licensed provider groups.*

(3) *A loan forgiveness grant may be provided in installments proportionate to the amount of the service obligation that has been completed.*

(4) *The number of persons who may be considered for the program shall be limited by the funds made available pursuant to Section 128458.*

(f) *This section shall become operative on July 1, 2018.*

SEC. 10. *This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:*

In order to address the urgent need for licensed mental health practitioners in medically underserved areas, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.