

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 611**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Nakanishi**  
**(Coauthor: Assembly Member Bass Coauthors: Assembly Members**  
**Bass and Maze)**

February 21, 2007

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An act to amend Section 3523 of the Business and Professions Code, and to add Article 2.8 (~~commencing with Section 127950~~) to ~~Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the 6~~ (*commencing with Section 128559*) to Chapter 5 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to physician assistants.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 611, as amended, Nakanishi. Physician assistants: educational loan program.

Existing law, the Physician Assistant Practice Act, establishes the Physician Assistant Committee of the Medical Board of California. Under existing law, the committee licenses physician assistants under the name of the board and regulates the practice of physician assistants.

*Existing law requires the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to establish a nonprofit public benefit corporation known as the Health Professions Education Foundation to perform various duties with respect to implementing health professions scholarship and loan program.*

This bill would create the California Physician Assistant Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program (~~program~~) within the ~~Office of Statewide~~

~~Health Planning and Development~~ *foundation* to provide scholarships to physician assistant students and to repay qualifying educational loans of physician assistants who practice in medically underserved areas of the state and in specified clinics. The bill would establish the California Physician Assistant Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund (~~fund~~) in the State Treasury and would make its revenue available for expenditure for the program upon appropriation by the Legislature. The bill would direct the deposit of voluntary contributions made by a physician assistant upon renewal of his or her license into the fund. The bill would require the Physician Assistant Committee to report on the program, as specified, in the annual report of the Medical Board of California. The bill would make implementation of the program contingent upon sufficient revenue being available in the fund for those purposes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
 State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 3523 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 3523. (a) (1) All physician assistant licenses shall expire at
- 4 12 midnight of the last day of the birth month of the licensee during
- 5 the second year of a two-year term if not renewed.
- 6 (2) The committee shall establish by regulation procedures for
- 7 the administration of a birthdate renewal program, including, but
- 8 not limited to, the establishment of a system of staggered license
- 9 expiration dates and a pro rata formula for the payment of renewal
- 10 fees by physician assistants affected by the implementation of the
- 11 program.
- 12 (b) To renew an unexpired license, the licensee shall, on or
- 13 before the date of expiration of the license, apply for renewal on
- 14 a form provided by the committee, accompanied by the prescribed
- 15 renewal fee.
- 16 (c) At the time of renewing a physician assistant license, the
- 17 licensee may make a *voluntary* contribution of twenty-five dollars
- 18 (\$25) to the board for the sole purpose of funding the California
- 19 Physician Assistant Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program
- 20 established pursuant to Article 2.8 (commencing with Section
- 21 127950) of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and

1 Safety Code. The board shall transmit the contribution submitted  
2 pursuant to this subdivision for deposit in the California Physician  
3 Assistant Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund  
4 established pursuant to Section 127952 of the Health and Safety  
5 Code.

6 ~~SEC. 2. Article 2.8 (commencing with Section 127950) is~~  
7 ~~added to Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and~~  
8 ~~Safety Code, to read:~~

9  
10 ~~Article 2.8. California Physician Assistant Scholarship and~~  
11 ~~Loan Repayment Program~~

12  
13 ~~127950.—~~

14 ~~SEC. 2. Article 6 (commencing with Section 128559) is added~~  
15 ~~to Chapter 5 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety~~  
16 ~~Code, to read:~~

17  
18 ~~Article 6. California Physician Assistant Scholarship and Loan~~  
19 ~~Repayment Program~~

20

21 ~~128559.~~ (a) There is hereby established, in the ~~Office of~~  
22 ~~Statewide Health Planning and Development~~ *Health Professions*  
23 *Education Foundation*, the California Physician Assistant  
24 Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program, referred to as the  
25 program for purposes of this article. The program shall provide  
26 scholarships to pay for the educational expenses of students  
27 enrolled in physician assistant schools and to repay qualifying  
28 educational loans of physician assistants who agree to practice in  
29 designated medically underserved areas as provided in this article.

30 (b) ~~The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development~~  
31 *Health Professions Education Foundation* may also provide  
32 scholarships and loan repayments for physician assistants who  
33 practice in a clinic licensed pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section  
34 1204.

35 ~~127951. The Office of Statewide Health Planning and~~  
36 ~~Development~~

37 ~~128559.1.~~ (a) *The Health Professions Education Foundation*  
38 shall administer the program utilizing the same general guidelines  
39 applicable to the federal National Health Service Corps Scholarship  
40 Program established pursuant to Section 2541 of Title 42 of the

1 United States Code and the National Health Service Corps Loan  
 2 Repayment Program established pursuant to Section 254l-1 of  
 3 Title 42 of the United States Code, with the following exceptions:

4 (a)

5 (1) A physician assistant student shall be eligible to participate  
 6 in the program if he or she agrees to practice at a site located in  
 7 an area of the state where unmet priority needs exist for primary  
 8 care family physicians, as determined by the Health Workforce  
 9 Policy Commission.

10 (b)

11 (2) No matching funds shall be required from an entity in the  
 12 practice site area.

13 (b) *The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development*  
 14 *shall adopt regulations regarding the implementation of the*  
 15 *program, upon recommendations made by the Health Professions*  
 16 *Education Foundation.*

17 (c) *In making recommendations regarding the implementation*  
 18 *of the program and during the development of the program, the*  
 19 *Health Professions Education Foundation shall solicit advice from*  
 20 *representatives of the Physician Assistants Committee and the*  
 21 *California Academy of Physician Assistants.*

22 ~~127952.~~

23 128559.2. (a) The California Physician Assistant Scholarship  
 24 and Loan Repayment Program Fund is hereby established in the  
 25 State Treasury.

26 (b) Revenues from the contributions made pursuant to Section  
 27 3523 of the Business and Professions Code, as well as any other  
 28 private or public funds made available for purposes of the program,  
 29 shall be deposited into the fund. Upon appropriation by the  
 30 Legislature, moneys in the fund shall be available for expenditure  
 31 by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development for  
 32 purposes of implementing the program pursuant to this article.

33 (c) The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development  
 34 and the Health Professions Education Foundation shall be under  
 35 no obligation to administer the program under this article until  
 36 sufficient moneys have been accumulated in the fund and  
 37 appropriated to the office by the Legislature.

38 ~~127953.~~

39 128559.3. The Physician Assistant Committee of the Medical  
 40 Board of California, in conjunction with the Office of Statewide

1 Health Planning and Development, shall describe in the annual  
2 report of the Medical Board of California, the experience of the  
3 program since its inception, evaluate its effectiveness in improving  
4 access to health care for underserved populations, and make  
5 recommendations for maintaining or expanding its operation. The  
6 report shall also include the following data:

7 (a) The number of the participants in the program.

8 (b) The locations where the participants practice or attend  
9 school.

10 (c) The amount expended for the program's operation and the  
11 amount collected in donations for the program.

12 ~~127954.~~

13 *128559.4.* This article shall be implemented only to the extent  
14 that sufficient moneys are available in the California Physician  
15 Assistant Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund to  
16 administer the program.

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