

AMENDED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 20, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 19, 2007

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 Niello~~**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members ~~Bass, Berg, Fuller, and Maze~~)**  
**(Coauthor: Senator ~~Ridley-Thomas~~)**

February 21, 2007

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~~An act to amend Section 3523 of the Business and Professions Code, and to add Article 6 (commencing with Section 128559) to Chapter 5 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to physician assistants. An act to add Section 8611.5 to the Water Code, relating to water.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 611, as amended, ~~Nakanishi Niello. Physician assistants: educational loan program.~~ *Flood control: backup water supply conduit.*

*Existing law authorizes the Reclamation Board to engage in various flood control activities along the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River, their tributaries, and related areas. Existing law requires the board to establish and enforce standards for the maintenance and operation of, and to undertake other responsibilities with regard to, flood control works under its jurisdiction.*

*This bill would authorize the Reclamation Board to participate with the United States Army Corps of Engineers in a project amendment that includes the installation of a backup water supply conduit into Folsom Lake for the City of Roseville, City of Folsom, and the San Juan Water District as a part of the construction of an auxiliary Folsom Dam spillway. The bill would subject the approval and use of the conduit to various requirements, including the requirement that local public agencies pay for the planning, design, and installation of the conduit. The bill would indemnify the State of California for any act or omission performed by an officer, agent, or employee of the State of California related to the implementation or use of the conduit.*

~~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 programs.~~

~~This bill would create the California Physician Assistant Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program within the 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 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 foundation to report to the Legislature on the program, as specified. 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 8611.5 is added to the Water Code, to*  
2 *read:*

3     *8611.5. The Reclamation Board may participate with the United*  
4 *States Army Corps of Engineers in a project amendment that*  
5 *includes the installation of a backup water supply conduit into*  
6 *Folsom Lake for the City of Roseville, City of Folsom, and the San*  
7 *Juan Water District as a part of the construction of an auxiliary*  
8 *Folsom Dam spillway, which is subject to the Project Cooperation*  
9 *Agreement entered into on March 30, 2004, by the United States*  
10 *Army Corps of Engineers, the State of California, represented by*  
11 *the Reclamation Board, and the Sacramento Area Flood Control*  
12 *Agency. Approval of and use of the conduit shall be subject to all*  
13 *of the following:*

14     *(a) The planning, design, and installation of the conduit shall*  
15 *be paid by the local agencies.*

16     *(b) The planning, design, and installation of the conduit shall*  
17 *not delay the completion of the auxiliary spillway into another*  
18 *flood season.*

19     *(c) The use of the conduit shall connect to a variable level intake*  
20 *structure for the protection of aquatic ecosystems.*

21     *(d) The use of the conduit shall be subject to the Sacramento*  
22 *Water Forum Agreement.*

23     *(e) The conduit shall not be used to deliver water outside of the*  
24 *existing service area.*

25     *(f) Implementation or use of the conduit under this section does*  
26 *not impose liability upon, or require indemnification by the State*  
27 *of California for any act or omission performed by an officer,*  
28 *agent, or employee of the State of California.*

29     ~~SECTION 1. Section 3523 of the Business and Professions~~  
30 ~~Code is amended to read:~~

31     ~~3523. (a) (1) All physician assistant licenses shall expire at~~  
32 ~~12 midnight of the last day of the birth month of the licensee during~~  
33 ~~the second year of a two-year term if not renewed.~~

34     ~~(2) The committee shall establish by regulation procedures for~~  
35 ~~the administration of a birthdate renewal program, including, but~~  
36 ~~not limited to, the establishment of a system of staggered license~~  
37 ~~expiration dates and a pro rata formula for the payment of renewal~~

1 fees by physician assistants affected by the implementation of the  
2 program.

3 ~~(b) To renew an unexpired license, the licensee shall, on or~~  
4 ~~before the date of expiration of the license, apply for renewal on~~  
5 ~~a form provided by the committee, accompanied by the prescribed~~  
6 ~~renewal fee.~~

7 ~~(c) At the time of renewing a physician assistant license, the~~  
8 ~~licensee may make a voluntary contribution of twenty-five dollars~~  
9 ~~(\$25) or more to the board for the sole purpose of funding the~~  
10 ~~California Physician Assistant Scholarship and Loan Repayment~~  
11 ~~Program established pursuant to Article 2.8 (commencing with~~  
12 ~~Section 127950) of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the~~  
13 ~~Health and Safety Code. The board shall transmit the contribution~~  
14 ~~submitted pursuant to this subdivision for deposit in the California~~  
15 ~~Physician Assistant Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program~~  
16 ~~Fund established pursuant to Section 127952 of the Health and~~  
17 ~~Safety Code.~~

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

21  
22 ~~Article 6. California Physician Assistant Scholarship and Loan~~  
23 ~~Repayment Program~~  
24

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

33 ~~(b) The Health Professions Education Foundation may also~~  
34 ~~provide scholarships and loan repayments for physician assistants~~  
35 ~~who practice in a clinic licensed pursuant to subdivision (a) of~~  
36 ~~Section 1204.~~

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 2541-1 of~~  
3 ~~Title 42 of the United States Code, with the following exceptions:~~

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

9 ~~(2) No matching funds shall be required from an entity in the~~  
10 ~~practice site area.~~

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

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

20 ~~128559.2. (a) The California Physician Assistant Scholarship~~  
21 ~~and Loan Repayment Program Fund is hereby established in the~~  
22 ~~State Treasury.~~

23 ~~(b) Revenues from the contributions made pursuant to Section~~  
24 ~~3523 of the Business and Professions Code, as well as any other~~  
25 ~~private or public funds made available for purposes of the program,~~  
26 ~~shall be deposited into the fund. Upon appropriation by the~~  
27 ~~Legislature, moneys in the fund shall be available for expenditure~~  
28 ~~by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development for~~  
29 ~~purposes of implementing the program pursuant to this article.~~

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

35 ~~128559.3. The Health Professions Education Foundation shall~~  
36 ~~submit a report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2009,~~  
37 ~~and annually thereafter, that describes the experience of the~~  
38 ~~program since its inception, evaluate its effectiveness in improving~~  
39 ~~access to health care for underserved populations, and make~~

1 ~~recommendations for maintaining or expanding its operation. The~~  
2 ~~report shall also include the following data:~~  
3 ~~(a) The number of the participants in the program.~~  
4 ~~(b) The locations where the participants practice or attend~~  
5 ~~school.~~  
6 ~~(c) The amount expended for the program's operation and the~~  
7 ~~amount collected in donations for the program.~~  
8 ~~128559.4. This article shall be implemented only to the extent~~  
9 ~~that sufficient moneys are available in the California Physician~~  
10 ~~Assistant Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund to~~  
11 ~~administer the program.~~

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