

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 22, 2000  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 25, 2000  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2000

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1748**

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**Introduced by Senator Perata**

February 23, 2000

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~~An act to add Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 99400) to Part 65 of the Education Code, and to add Section 4053—An act to add Sections 4341.1, 4341.2, 4341.3, 4341.5, and 4341.6 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1748, as amended, Perata. ~~Community mental health centers—Mental health services programs.~~

~~Existing law provides for the provision of educational programs through the California State University and the University of California.~~

~~This bill would require that California State University shall include in any program leading to a license or employment in a mental health profession elements to prepare graduates for employment in community mental health centers, and would request the Regents of the University of California to provide for the inclusion of those curriculum elements in any university program leading to a license or employment in a mental health profession.~~

Existing law requires the State Department of Mental Health to administer various mental health programs.

~~This bill would require the State Department of Mental Health to establish a program to provide grants for students who attend postgraduate school to obtain professional degrees and who agree to work for a minimum period at a community health center following graduation—~~*establish the Mental Health Services Stabilization Program which would, upon allocation by the department of funds, require counties that accept these funds to utilize them to increase salaries for certain mental health services providers.*

*This bill would establish within the department the Mental Health Human Resources Advisory Council, composed of the Director of Mental Health and other specified representatives, to study the shortage of mental health workers in publicly funded mental health services and develop recommendations for expansion of their services, including the establishment of regional training centers that would perform prescribed functions.*

*The bill would require the department to establish a grant program for students in California colleges and universities that offer graduate school programs leading to certain degrees in order to attract students into employment in publicly funded mental health services. It would also require the department to offer forgivable loans to current full-time employees of counties and to full-time employees of nonprofit agencies whose services are funded primarily through county mental health contracts and who meet other specified criteria.*

*This bill, in addition, would require the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to establish, on or before July 1, 2001, a priority program for mental health professionals, as defined, to access funds pursuant to the federal National Health Services Corps program to the same extent that access to those funds is afforded to primary care physicians, dentists, and nurses, and to report to the Legislature on or before May 1, 2001, on its progress in establishing this program.*

*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. Chapter 8 (commencing with Section~~  
2    *SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of*  
3    *the following:*  
4    *(a) There is a growing shortage of mental health*  
5    *professionals, and there is a need for more qualified*  
6    *mental health professionals throughout California.*  
7    *(b) Public mental health programs have difficulty*  
8    *recruiting and retaining high quality staff for rural areas*  
9    *or large populations of low-income and linguistic*  
10    *minority families.*  
11    *(c) The rising costs of higher education, coupled with*  
12    *a shift in available financial aid from scholarships and*  
13    *grants to loans, make loan repayment options an*  
14    *important consideration in a student's decision to pursue*  
15    *a postsecondary education.*  
16    *(d) The availability of financial aid and loan*  
17    *repayment assistance are important considerations for*  
18    *many students, especially economically disadvantaged*  
19    *students, in making their educational decisions.*  
20    *SEC. 2. Section 4341.1 is added to the Welfare and*  
21    *Institutions Code, to read:*  
22    *4341.1. (a) There is hereby established within the*  
23    *State Department of Mental Health the Mental Health*  
24    *Human Resources Advisory Council. The council shall be*  
25    *composed of the Director of Mental Health, who shall*  
26    *serve as chair and provide staff to the council, and*  
27    *representatives of the State Department of Education,*  
28    *the University of California, the California State*  
29    *University, the California Community Colleges, the*  
30    *California School Boards Association, the Association of*  
31    *California School Administrators, the Board of Behavioral*  
32    *Sciences, the California Mental Health Directors*  
33    *Association, the California Council of Community Mental*  
34    *Health Agencies, the National Alliance for the Mentally*  
35    *Ill-California, the California Network of Mental Health*  
36    *Clients, the United Advocates for Children of California,*  
37    *and the California Mental Health Planning Council.*  
38    *(b) The council shall do all of the following:*



1     *(1) Study the shortage of mental health workers in*  
2     *publicly funded mental health services and develop*  
3     *recommendations for expansion of all of the following:*

4     *(A) Programs such as the Human Services Academy*  
5     *currently established by the Mental Health Association of*  
6     *Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Unified School District*  
7     *to offer high school students education about mental*  
8     *health problems, services, and information about the*  
9     *meaning and value to society of service in publicly funded*  
10    *mental health care.*

11    *(B) Programs that expand graduate school programs.*

12    *(C) Ways to expand the utilization of those who have*  
13    *been consumers of mental health services.*

14    *(D) Ways to engage community college students,*  
15    *four-year college undergraduates, and college graduates*  
16    *in careers leading to mental health service.*

17    *(E) Efforts to change the curriculum of programs,*  
18    *both graduate and undergraduate, that could lead to*  
19    *employment in public mental health programs to make*  
20    *sure there is clinical training and education that*  
21    *complements and supports employment in public mental*  
22    *health programs.*

23    *(F) Revisions, as may be necessary, to licensing*  
24    *requirements including recommendations for proposed*  
25    *legislation, and scope of practice issues that maximize the*  
26    *opportunity to utilize consumers and are consistent with*  
27    *the types of services likely to be required to serve*  
28    *seriously emotionally disturbed children and severely*  
29    *mentally ill adults who need a wide array of services as set*  
30    *forth in the children's and adults' systems of care.*

31    *(G) Financial supports in the form of stipends, loan*  
32    *forgiveness, or other programs that could be*  
33    *accomplished through state or federal funds that would*  
34    *further support the need for employment.*

35    *(2) Annually quantify the need for different types of*  
36    *providers in different regions of the state including the*  
37    *cost, positions, and projected future needs.*

38    *(3) Address other issues of collaboration and*  
39    *coordination between the educational system, the*  
40    *licensing boards, and the mental health system that are*



1 *impeding progress in expanding the mental health work*  
2 *force.*

3 *(4) Address issues of collaboration and coordination*  
4 *within the various levels of the educational system that*  
5 *are impeding progress in expanding the mental health*  
6 *work force.*

7 *(5) Develop recommendations to ensure all of the*  
8 *following:*

9 *(A) Two-year and four-year colleges have sufficient*  
10 *capacity to train all the mental health staff needed.*

11 *(B) Issues that obstruct development of a career*  
12 *ladder between two-year and four-year schools are*  
13 *eliminated.*

14 *(C) Community college programs have clear*  
15 *delineation of both skills and theory that need to be*  
16 *mastered for each type of position.*

17 *(D) There are new certificate programs for*  
18 *psychosocial rehabilitation at the community college*  
19 *level and post baccalaureate case management.*

20 *(6) (A) Establish regional training centers to develop*  
21 *the skills of those already employed in the public mental*  
22 *health system to collaborate regionally with high school,*  
23 *community college, undergraduate, and graduate*  
24 *educational programs on curriculum and special program*  
25 *development and on expanding the capacity of graduate*  
26 *programs for the mental health professions as well as*  
27 *supporting and increasing the number of undergraduate*  
28 *majors in mental health-related fields who seek*  
29 *employment in mental health care.*

30 *(B) The regional training centers shall be established*  
31 *to do all of the following:*

32 *(i) Facilitate collaboration between the educational*  
33 *system and mental health system.*

34 *(ii) Offer classes on the public mental health system to*  
35 *students at all levels of education, including community*  
36 *colleges, bachelor's degree, master's degree, doctorate*  
37 *degree, and physicians and surgeons, to augment the*  
38 *curriculum provided in colleges and universities.*

39 *(iii) Utilize county mental health staff and*  
40 *community-based agency staff to provide the training*



1 with courses that would be approved for credit in the  
2 student's curriculum.

3 (iv) Develop a web-based distance learning program  
4 to link students to the regional mental health training  
5 classes.

6 (v) Develop curriculum that combines courses  
7 offered by different entities.

8 (vi) Facilitate field placement of college students into  
9 county mental health programs and community-based  
10 agencies.

11 (vii) Conduct extensive outreach to inform students of  
12 opportunities for field placements, including meetings on  
13 mental health professions with psychology and social  
14 work student affairs officers using professionals and  
15 consumers.

16 (viii) Train professors about the availability of field  
17 placements.

18 (ix) Develop a web-based clearinghouse to link  
19 employers and employees and disseminate best practices  
20 for school-to-employment career paths. The website shall  
21 describe a seamless progression of career path options.

22 (x) Conduct outreach to high school students to  
23 promote interest in the mental health field, including the  
24 development of field placements for these students.

25 (xi) Provide in-service training on a regional basis to  
26 current county mental health staff and community-based  
27 agency staff.

28 SEC. 3. Section 4341.2 is added to the Welfare and  
29 Institutions Code, to read:

30 4341.2. (a) There is hereby established the Mental  
31 Health Services Stabilization Program. In any year in  
32 which funds are appropriated for this program by the  
33 annual Budget Act, funds shall be allocated by the  
34 department to counties based upon their relative  
35 difficulty and need in employing and retaining  
36 specialized mental health staff. The department shall  
37 utilize the advisory council established by Section 4341.1  
38 to provide guidance in setting forth criteria for allocations  
39 and rules for utilization for the funds.



1 (b) Counties that accept funds under the program  
2 shall utilize these funds to increase salaries for mental  
3 health services providers who are employees of county  
4 programs or employees of county-funded programs  
5 operated by private nonprofit agencies whose salaries are  
6 not competitive with other employment opportunities  
7 for the selected classes of employees. First priority for  
8 salary increases shall be given to employees of private  
9 nonprofit agencies whose salaries are more than 10  
10 percent below salaries for comparable positions of county  
11 employees.

12 SEC. 4. Section 4341.3 is added to the Welfare and  
13 Institutions Code, to read:

14 4341.3. (a) The department shall establish a grant  
15 program for students in California colleges and  
16 universities that offer graduate school programs leading  
17 to degrees in psychiatry, psychology, social work,  
18 marriage and family therapy, and other mental  
19 health-related degrees designated by the department in  
20 order to attract students into employment in publicly  
21 funded mental health services.

22 (b) The program shall receive and allocate funds as  
23 provided by the annual Budget Act. The program shall be  
24 administered in a manner similar to the program  
25 administered through the University of California under  
26 contract with the State Department of Social Services for  
27 recruitment of social workers for public social services.

28 (c) Funds may also be allocated to increase faculty  
29 positions in existing programs that are currently  
30 operating at capacity and where the academic institution  
31 enters into a contract with the department specifying  
32 how the additional positions and courses to be offered will  
33 lead to more employees in publicly funded mental health  
34 services.

35 SEC. 5. Section 4341.5 is added to the Welfare and  
36 Institutions Code, to read:

37 4341.5. (a) The department shall offer forgivable  
38 loans to current full-time employees of counties and to  
39 full-time employees of nonprofit agencies whose services  
40 are funded primarily through county mental health



1 contracts, who have a bachelor's degree, who seek to  
2 continue working part-time while obtaining a master's  
3 degree in a mental health profession, and who agree to  
4 work full time in a county or county funded nonprofit  
5 agency for four years after obtaining the master's degree.

6 (b) A loan shall pay for the cost of tuition and related  
7 education costs and the difference between the part-time  
8 pay and the full-time pay that was being earned at the  
9 time the education begins and the annual payments due  
10 on undergraduate education loans.

11 (c) Twenty-five percent of the loan shall be forgiven  
12 for each year that the individual remains in full-time  
13 employment in a county mental health program or a  
14 program of a private nonprofit agency whose services are  
15 paid for primarily with county mental health funds.

16 (d) The number of loans offered each year shall be  
17 based upon funds appropriated annually for this purpose  
18 by the Budget Act. The department shall establish an  
19 advisory committee including representatives of county  
20 mental health departments, private nonprofit mental  
21 health agencies, and other relevant organizations to  
22 provide advice in establishing criteria for determining  
23 the distribution of the loans.

24 (e) The loan distribution criteria shall give priority to  
25 bilingual bicultural applicants, and to applicants  
26 indicating a commitment to be employed in rural areas  
27 or other areas where there is the greatest shortage of  
28 mental health professionals.

29 SEC. 6. Section 4341.6 is added to the Welfare and  
30 Institutions Code, to read:

31 4341.6. (a) On or before July 1, 2001, the Office of  
32 Statewide Health Planning and Development shall  
33 establish a priority program for mental health  
34 professionals to access funds pursuant to the federal  
35 National Health Services Corps program (42 U.S.C. Sec.  
36 254d) funds to the same extent that access to those funds  
37 is afforded to primary care physicians, dentists, and  
38 nurses. The office shall report to the Legislature on or  
39 before May 1, 2001, on its progress in establishing this  
40 program.



1 (b) As used in this section, “mental health  
2 professionals” means psychiatrists, psychologists, social  
3 workers, marriage and family therapists, and psychiatric  
4 technicians.

5 99400) is added to Part 65 of the Education Code, to read:

6

7

CHAPTER 8. COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER  
TRAINING CURRICULUM

8

9

10 99400. (a) The California State University shall  
11 include in any program leading to a license or  
12 employment in a mental health profession elements to  
13 prepare graduates for employment as mental health  
14 professionals, as defined in subdivision (e), as employees  
15 of community mental health centers, as defined in  
16 Section 5667 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

17 (b) The Regents of the University of California are  
18 requested to provide for the inclusion of the curriculum  
19 elements described in subdivision (a) in any university  
20 program leading to a license or employment in a mental  
21 health profession.

22 (c) For purposes of this section, “mental health  
23 professional” means any person subject to the provisions  
24 of any of the following chapters of Division 2 of the  
25 Business and Professions Code:

26 (1) Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900).

27 (2) Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 4500).

28 (3) Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 4980).

29 (4) Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 4990).

30 SEC. 2. Section 4053 is added to the Welfare and  
31 Institutions Code, to read:

32 4053. (a) The department shall establish a program  
33 to provide grants of funds, upon appropriation, for  
34 students who attend postgraduate school to obtain  
35 professional degrees in mental health that would qualify  
36 them to work as a mental health professional and who  
37 agree to work for a minimum period of three years as an  
38 employee of a community health center following  
39 graduation.



1 ~~(b) Prior to making grants under subdivision (a), the~~  
2 ~~department shall determine both of the following:~~  
3 ~~(1) The level of demand for categories of licensed~~  
4 ~~mental health professionals in county mental health~~  
5 ~~programs.~~  
6 ~~(2) Those geographic areas that have the highest level~~  
7 ~~of vacancies for mental health professionals.~~  
8 ~~(c) The department shall give priority for grants~~  
9 ~~under this section to those students who meet the~~  
10 ~~following requirements:~~  
11 ~~(1) They are enrolled in educational programs leading~~  
12 ~~to licenses in the categories most in demand, as~~  
13 ~~determined pursuant to subdivision (b).~~  
14 ~~(2) They agree to become employed in mental health~~  
15 ~~programs with the greatest number of staff vacancies or~~  
16 ~~in geographic areas with the most vacancies for mental~~  
17 ~~health professionals.~~  
18 ~~(d) For purposes of this section, “mental health~~  
19 ~~program” means the same as the term is defined in~~  
20 ~~subdivision (a) of Section 99400 of the Education Code~~  
21 ~~and ‘mental health professional’ means the same as the~~  
22 ~~term is defined in subdivision (c) of Section 99400 of the~~  
23 ~~Education Code.~~

