

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 25, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 7, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 22, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 25, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2000

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1748**

**Introduced by Senator Perata**

February 23, 2000

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An act to add Sections ~~4341.1, 4341.2, 4341.3, and 4341.5~~ *Section 4341.1* to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1748, as amended, Perata. Mental health services programs.

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

This bill would ~~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; specify the representatives of the task force~~

*funded by the Budget Act of 2000 to address and identify options for meeting the staffing needs of state and county health, human services, and criminal justice agencies, and would require the task force, among other things, 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. It would require the department to provide staffing for the task force and would also require the task force to issue a progress report to the Legislature on its findings on or before May 1, 2001, and to issue a final report to the Legislature on or before May 1, 2002.*

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.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of  
 2 the following:  
 3 (a) There is a growing shortage of mental health  
 4 professionals, and there is a need for more qualified  
 5 mental health professionals throughout California.  
 6 (b) Public mental health programs have difficulty  
 7 recruiting and retaining high quality staff for rural areas  
 8 or large populations of low-income and linguistic  
 9 minority families.  
 10 (c) The rising costs of higher education, coupled with  
 11 a shift in available financial aid from scholarships and  
 12 grants to loans, make loan repayment options an



1 important consideration in a student's decision to pursue  
2 a postsecondary education.

3 (d) The availability of financial aid and loan  
4 repayment assistance are important considerations for  
5 many students, especially economically disadvantaged  
6 students, in making their educational decisions.

7 SEC. 2. Section 4341.1 is added to the Welfare and  
8 Institutions Code, to read:

9 ~~4341.1. (a) There is hereby established within the  
10 State Department of Mental Health the Mental Health  
11 Human Resources Advisory Council. The council shall be  
12 composed of the Director of Mental Health, who shall  
13 serve as chair and provide staff to the council, and  
14 representatives of the State Department of Education;~~

15 *4341.1. (a) The task force funded by Schedule (a) of  
16 Item 4440-001-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of  
17 2000 (Ch. 52, Stats. 2000) to address and identify options  
18 for meeting the staffing needs of state and county health,  
19 human services, and criminal justice agencies shall  
20 include a representative from the State Department of  
21 Mental Health, who shall serve as chair; the Secretary of  
22 the Health and Human Services Agency or his or her  
23 designee, a representative of the Youth and Adult  
24 Correctional Agency, the Secretary for Education or his  
25 or her designee, a representative of the California Mental  
26 Health Planning Council, and representatives of the  
27 University of California, including the University of  
28 California medical schools and medical residency  
29 training programs, the California State University, the  
30 California Community Colleges, the California School  
31 Boards Association, the Association of California School  
32 Administrators, the Medical Board of California, the  
33 Board of Behavioral Sciences, the Board of Psychology,  
34 the California Mental Health Directors Association, the  
35 California Council of Community Mental Health  
36 Agencies, the National Alliance for the Mentally  
37 Ill-California, the California Network of Mental Health  
38 Clients, the United Advocates for Children of California,  
39 and the California Mental Health Planning Council.  
40 *Alliance of Child and Family Services. The State**



1 *Department of Mental Health shall provide staff to the*  
2 *task force.*

3 (b) The ~~council~~ *task force* shall do all of the following:

4 (1) Study the shortage of mental health workers in  
5 publicly funded mental health services and develop  
6 recommendations for expansion of all of the following:

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

14 (B) Programs that expand graduate school programs.

15 (C) Ways to expand the utilization of those who have  
16 been consumers of mental health services.

17 (D) Ways to engage community college students,  
18 four-year college undergraduates, and college graduates  
19 in careers leading to mental health service.

20 (E) Efforts to change the curriculum of programs,  
21 undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate, including  
22 medical residency programs, that could lead to  
23 employment in public mental health programs to make  
24 sure there is clinical training and education that  
25 complements and supports employment in public mental  
26 health programs.

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

35 (G) Financial supports in the form of stipends, loan  
36 forgiveness, or other programs that could be  
37 accomplished through state or federal funds that would  
38 further support the need for employment.



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

4 (3) *Evaluate the impact of competition from the*  
5 *private sector on the availability of mental health*  
6 *professionals in the public sector.*

7 (4) Address other issues of collaboration and  
8 coordination between the educational system, the  
9 licensing boards, and the mental health system that are  
10 impeding progress in expanding the mental health  
11 workforce.

12 ~~(4)~~

13 (5) Address issues of collaboration and coordination  
14 within the various levels of the educational system that  
15 are impeding progress in expanding the mental health  
16 workforce.

17 ~~(5)~~

18 (6) Develop recommendations to ensure all of the  
19 following:

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

22 (B) Issues that obstruct development of a career  
23 ladder between two-year and four-year schools are  
24 eliminated.

25 (C) Community college programs have clear  
26 delineation of both skills and theory that need to be  
27 mastered for each type of position.

28 (D) There are new certificate programs for  
29 psychosocial rehabilitation at the community college  
30 level and post baccalaureate case management.

31 ~~(6) (A) Establish regional training centers to develop~~  
32 ~~the skills of those already employed in the public mental~~  
33 ~~health system to collaborate regionally with high school,~~  
34 ~~community college, undergraduate, and graduate~~  
35 ~~educational programs on curriculum and special program~~  
36 ~~development and on expanding the capacity of graduate~~  
37 ~~programs for the mental health professions as well as~~  
38 ~~supporting and increasing the number of undergraduate~~  
39 ~~majors in mental health-related fields who seek~~  
40 ~~employment in mental health care.~~



- 1 ~~(B) The regional training centers shall be established~~  
2 ~~to do all of the following:~~
- 3 ~~(i) Facilitate collaboration between the educational~~  
4 ~~system and mental health system.~~
- 5 ~~(ii) Offer classes on the public mental health system to~~  
6 ~~students at all levels of education, including community~~  
7 ~~colleges, bachelor's degree, master's degree, doctorate~~  
8 ~~degree, and physicians and surgeons, to augment the~~  
9 ~~curriculum provided in colleges and universities.~~
- 10 ~~(iii) Utilize county mental health staff and~~  
11 ~~community based agency staff to provide the training~~  
12 ~~with courses that would be approved for credit in the~~  
13 ~~student's curriculum.~~
- 14 ~~(iv) Develop a web-based distance learning program~~  
15 ~~to link students to the regional mental health training~~  
16 ~~classes.~~
- 17 ~~(v) Develop curriculum that combines courses~~  
18 ~~offered by different entities.~~
- 19 ~~(vi) Facilitate field placement of college students into~~  
20 ~~county mental health programs and community-based~~  
21 ~~agencies.~~
- 22 ~~(vii) Conduct extensive outreach to inform students of~~  
23 ~~opportunities for field placements, including meetings on~~  
24 ~~mental health professions with psychology and social~~  
25 ~~work student affairs officers using professionals and~~  
26 ~~consumers.~~
- 27 ~~(viii) Train professors about the availability of field~~  
28 ~~placements.~~
- 29 ~~(ix) Develop a web-based clearinghouse to link~~  
30 ~~employers and employees and disseminate best practices~~  
31 ~~for school-to-employment career paths. The web site shall~~  
32 ~~describe a seamless progression of career path options.~~
- 33 ~~(x) Conduct outreach to high school students to~~  
34 ~~promote interest in the mental health field, including the~~  
35 ~~development of field placements for these students.~~
- 36 ~~(xi) Provide in-service training on a regional basis to~~  
37 ~~current county mental health staff and community-based~~  
38 ~~agency staff.~~
- 39 ~~SEC. 3. Section 4341.2 is added to the Welfare and~~  
40 ~~Institutions Code, to read:~~



1 ~~4341.2. (a) There is hereby established the Mental~~  
2 ~~Health Services Stabilization Program. In any year in~~  
3 ~~which funds are appropriated for this program by the~~  
4 ~~annual Budget Act, funds shall be allocated by the~~  
5 ~~department to counties based upon their relative~~  
6 ~~difficulty and need in employing and retaining~~  
7 ~~specialized mental health staff. The department shall~~  
8 ~~utilize the advisory council established by Section 4341.1~~  
9 ~~to provide guidance in setting forth criteria for allocations~~  
10 ~~and rules for utilization for the funds.~~

11 ~~(b) Counties that accept funds under the program~~  
12 ~~shall utilize these funds to increase salaries for mental~~  
13 ~~health services providers who are employees of county~~  
14 ~~programs or employees of county-funded programs~~  
15 ~~operated by private nonprofit agencies whose salaries are~~  
16 ~~not competitive with other employment opportunities~~  
17 ~~for the selected classes of employees. First priority for~~  
18 ~~salary increases shall be given to employees of private~~  
19 ~~nonprofit agencies whose salaries are more than 10~~  
20 ~~percent below salaries for comparable positions of county~~  
21 ~~employees.~~

22 ~~SEC. 4. Section 4341.3 is added to the Welfare and~~  
23 ~~Institutions Code, to read:~~

24 ~~4341.3. (a) The department shall establish a grant~~  
25 ~~program for students in California colleges and~~  
26 ~~universities that offer graduate school programs leading~~  
27 ~~to degrees in psychiatry, psychology, social work,~~  
28 ~~marriage and family therapy, and other mental~~  
29 ~~health-related degrees designated by the department in~~  
30 ~~order to attract students into employment in publicly~~  
31 ~~funded mental health services.~~

32 ~~(b) The program shall receive and allocate funds as~~  
33 ~~provided by the annual Budget Act. The program shall be~~  
34 ~~administered in a manner similar to the program~~  
35 ~~administered through the University of California under~~  
36 ~~contract with the State Department of Social Services for~~  
37 ~~recruitment of social workers for public social services.~~

38 ~~(c) Funds may also be allocated to increase faculty~~  
39 ~~positions in existing programs that are currently~~  
40 ~~operating at capacity and where the academic institution~~



1 enters into a contract with the department specifying  
2 how the additional positions and courses to be offered will  
3 lead to more employees in publicly funded mental health  
4 services.

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

7 4341.5. (a) The department shall offer forgivable  
8 loans to current full-time employees of counties and to  
9 full-time employees of nonprofit agencies whose services  
10 are funded primarily through county mental health  
11 contracts, who have a bachelor's degree, who seek to  
12 continue working part-time while obtaining a master's  
13 degree in a mental health profession, and who agree to  
14 work full-time in a county or county-funded nonprofit  
15 agency for four years after obtaining the master's degree.

16 (b) A loan shall pay for the cost of tuition and related  
17 education costs and the difference between the part-time  
18 pay and the full-time pay that was being earned at the  
19 time the education begins and the annual payments due  
20 on undergraduate education loans.

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

26 (d) The number of loans offered each year shall be  
27 based upon funds appropriated annually for this purpose  
28 by the Budget Act. The department shall establish an  
29 advisory committee including representatives of county  
30 mental health departments, private nonprofit mental  
31 health agencies, and other relevant organizations to  
32 provide advice in establishing criteria for determining  
33 the distribution of the loans.

34 (e) The loan distribution criteria shall give priority to  
35 bilingual-bicultural applicants, and to applicants  
36 indicating a commitment to be employed in rural areas  
37 or other areas where there is the greatest shortage of  
38 mental health professionals.

39 (7) *Examine options for collaboration on curriculum*  
40 *between employees in the public mental health system,*



1 *and high schools, community colleges, and*  
2 *undergraduate and graduate education programs.*  
3 *(c) The task force shall issue a progress report to the*  
4 *Legislature on its findings on or before May 1, 2001, and*  
5 *shall issue a final report to the Legislature on or before*  
6 *May 1, 2002.*

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