

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 31, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 26, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 3, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 24, 2000

SENATE BILL

No. 1861

Introduced by Senator Hayden

~~(Coauthor: Senator Solis)~~ *(Coauthors: Senators Costa and Solis)*

February 24, 2000

~~An act to amend Sections 3537.10 and 3537.15 of, to add Section 3537.51 to, and to repeal and add Section 3537.50 of, An act to add Section 3537.51 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to physician assistants.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1861, as amended, Hayden. Physician assistants.

Existing law establishes a training program for international medical graduates to become physician assistants, conditioned upon the receipt of federal funds for that purpose. ~~Phases of the program were scheduled to begin on February 1, April 1, and September 1, 1994, or 3 months after federal funds became available.~~ Due to federal funds not having been made available, the phases of the training program were not implemented.

~~This bill would remove the restriction on the use of General Fund appropriations for the program and would make the program's implementation contingent upon that~~

~~appropriation in the annual Budget Act. This bill would also remove the requirement that federal funds be used to implement the program and would change the starting dates for the various phases of the program to 2001.~~

~~This bill would also revise the composition and responsibilities of the advisory task force that was created to assist in the establishment and implementation of the training program.~~

This bill would require the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to contract with a primary care physician assistant program for the purpose of developing and implementing a training curriculum for international medical graduates and to provide 10 scholarships of \$30,000 each to students in this program who commit to serve as primary care physician assistants in medically underserved areas for at least 4 years.

This bill would make the program's implementation contingent upon an appropriation in the Budget Act of 2000.

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.—It is the intent of the Legislature to~~
2 *SECTION 1. Section 3537.51 is added to the Business*
3 *and Professions Code, to read:*
4 *3537.51. The Office of Statewide Health Planning and*
5 *Development shall do all of the following:*
6 *(a) Contract with a primary care physician assistant*
7 *program for the purpose of developing and*
8 *implementing a training curriculum for international*
9 *medical graduates.*
10 *(1) The curriculum shall be developed in*
11 *collaboration with community-based organizations*
12 *representing international medical graduates and shall*
13 *include a special prematriculation component designed*
14 *to address academic remediation and language*
15 *proficiency needs of international medical graduates.*
16 *(2) The physician assistant program contracting under*
17 *this provision shall agree to establish at least 10 new*



1 training slots to be filled with international medical
2 graduates who have participated in the prematriculation
3 program. The contracting program shall work, in
4 collaboration with community-based organizations
5 representing international medical graduates, to identify
6 candidates for these training slots.

7 (b) Provide 10 scholarships, in the amount of thirty
8 thousand dollars (\$30,000) each, to students enrolled in
9 primary care physician assistant programs and who
10 commit to serve as primary care physician assistants in
11 medically underserved areas for a minimum of four years.
12 Five of the scholarships shall be awarded to international
13 medical graduates participating in the program pursuant
14 to subdivision (a).

15 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this
16 section shall be implemented only to the extent that funds
17 are appropriated in the Budget Act of 2000 for that
18 purpose.

19 ~~provide a program designed to increase the number of~~
20 ~~students and residents receiving quality education and~~
21 ~~training in the specialty of family practice and as primary~~
22 ~~care physician assistants, and to further strengthen and~~
23 ~~implement the Song-Brown Family Physician Training~~
24 ~~Act (Article 1 (commencing with Section 128200) of~~
25 ~~Chapter 4 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and~~
26 ~~Safety Code).~~

27 ~~SEC. 2. Section 3537.10 of the Business and~~
28 ~~Professions Code is amended to read:~~

29 ~~3537.10. (a) Subject to the other provisions of this~~
30 ~~article, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and~~
31 ~~Development, hereafter in this article referred to as the~~
32 ~~office, shall coordinate the establishment of an~~
33 ~~international medical graduate physician assistant~~
34 ~~training program, to be conducted at an appropriate~~
35 ~~educational institution or institutions. The goal of the~~
36 ~~program shall be to place as many international medical~~
37 ~~graduate physician assistants in medically underserved~~
38 ~~areas as possible in order to provide greater access to care~~
39 ~~for the growing population of medically indigent and~~
40 ~~underserved. The method for accomplishing this goal~~



1 shall be to train foreign medical graduates to become
2 licensed as physician assistants at no cost to the
3 participants in return for a commitment from the
4 participants to serve full time in underserved areas for a
5 four-year period.

6 (b) By February 1, 2001, the office shall establish a
7 training program advisory task force. The task force shall
8 be comprised of representatives from all of the following
9 groups:

10 (1) Physician assistant program directors.

11 (2) Foreign medical graduates.

12 (3) The California Academy of Physician Assistants.

13 (4) Nonprofit community health center directors.

14 (5) Physicians.

15 (6) The committee, at the committee's option.

16 (7) An academic institution operating an accredited
17 physician assistant program.

18 The office may, instead, serve solely as a consultant to
19 the task force.

20 (c) The task force shall do all of the following:

21 (1) Develop a recommended curriculum for the
22 training program that shall be a minimum of 24 months
23 in duration and shall, at a minimum, meet curriculum
24 standards consistent with the committee's regulations.
25 The program shall be subject to the committee's
26 approval. By April 1, 2001, the curriculum shall be
27 presented by the office to the Commission on
28 Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs for
29 approval.

30 (2) Develop recommended admission criteria for
31 participation in the pilot and ongoing program.

32 (3) Assist in development of linkages with academic
33 institutions for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating
34 the pilot program.

35 SEC. 3. Section 3537.15 of the Business and
36 Professions Code is amended to read:

37 3537.15. (a) Prior to establishment of an ongoing
38 international medical graduate physician assistant
39 training program, the Office of Statewide Health
40 Planning and Development shall coordinate the



1 establishment of a pilot program commencing
2 September 1, 2001, to test the validity and effectiveness
3 of the recommended training curriculum developed by
4 the task force. The task force shall, with the advice and
5 assistance of the academic institutions offering the pilot
6 program curriculum, and subject to their approval, select
7 10 international medical graduates to participate in the
8 pilot program.

9 (b) After two classes have graduated from the pilot
10 program, the task force, with the advice and assistance of
11 the academic institutions, shall evaluate the results of the
12 pilot program, to determine whether a permanent
13 program should be established. The office may modify
14 curriculum as needed and make appropriate revisions in
15 order to ensure program integrity and compliance with
16 established standards. Any permanent international
17 medical graduate physician assistant training program
18 shall commence at the beginning of the year following
19 the completion of the evaluation.

20 SEC. 4. Section 3537.50 of the Business and
21 Professions Code is repealed.

22 SEC. 5. Section 3537.50 is added to the Business and
23 Professions Code, to read:

24 3537.50. This chapter shall become operative only if
25 the Legislature appropriates funds in the annual Budget
26 Act for its implementation.

27 SEC. 6. Section 3537.51 is added to the Business and
28 Professions Code, to read:

29 3537.51. Funding shall be sufficient to cover the full
30 additional cost to the educational institution or
31 institutions that establish the program or programs, the
32 cost of tuition and attendance for the students in the
33 program or programs, and any additional costs, including
34 enforcement costs, that the office or the committee
35 incurs as a result of implementing this article. Nothing in
36 this article shall be construed as imposing any obligations
37 upon the office, the committee, or any physician assistant
38 training program in the absence of adequate funding as
39 described in this section. Nothing in this article shall be
40 construed either as precluding applicants for the



1 ~~program established by this article from seeking state or~~
2 ~~federal scholarship funds, or state and federal loan~~
3 ~~repayment funds available to physician assistant students,~~
4 ~~or as requiring that any applicants be granted preference~~
5 ~~in the award of those funds. Nothing in this article shall~~
6 ~~be construed as impairing the autonomy of any institution~~
7 ~~that offers a physician assistant training program.~~

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