

[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 2331

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 9, 2016

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SYNOPSIS

Establishes tuition reimbursement program for certain psychiatrists who work in underserved areas or psychiatric hospitals in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on December 15, 2016, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/23/2017)

1 AN ACT establishing a tuition reimbursement program for certain
2 psychiatrists who work in New Jersey and supplementing chapter
3 71C of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Authority” means the Higher Education Student Assistance
10 Authority.

11 “Eligible tuition expenses” means tuition expenses that were
12 incurred by a program participant in attending an accredited
13 medical school and which were not covered by any grants or
14 scholarships.

15 “Program” means the tuition reimbursement program for
16 psychiatrists established pursuant to this act.

17 “Program participant” means a psychiatrist who contracts with
18 the authority to provide mental health care services in a State
19 underserved area ¹or in a State psychiatric hospital¹ in return for
20 tuition reimbursement provided under the program.

21 ¹“State psychiatric hospital” means a State psychiatric hospital
22 operated by the Department of Human Services and listed in
23 R.S.30:1-7.¹

24 “State underserved area” means a geographic area in this State
25 which the Commissioner of Health ¹, in consultation with the
26 Commissioner of Human Services,¹ determines on the basis of
27 health status and economic indicators as having a physician
28 shortage in the specialty of psychiatry.

29
30 2. a. There is established in the Higher Education Student
31 Assistance Authority a tuition reimbursement program for
32 psychiatrists who provide mental health care services in a State
33 underserved area ¹or in a State psychiatric hospital¹. The program
34 shall provide reimbursement to program participants for a portion of
35 the eligible tuition expenses incurred by the participant in attending
36 medical school.

37 b. A program participant shall enter into a contract with the
38 authority for a specified number of one-year periods of service, up
39 to four years, in which the participant agrees to engage in the full-
40 time practice of psychiatry in a State underserved area ¹or in a State
41 psychiatric hospital¹. The agreement shall specify the program
42 participant’s dates of required service and the total amount of
43 reimbursement of eligible tuition expenses to be received by the
44 participant in return for service.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted December 15, 2016.

1 c. The tuition reimbursement for a participant under the
2 program shall equal 25 percent of the participant's eligible tuition
3 expenses for the one academic year of medical school attendance in
4 which tuition was the lowest, in return for each full year of service
5 satisfactorily completed by the participant under the program. The
6 total tuition reimbursement amount for a program participant, for
7 four full years of service, shall not exceed 100 percent of the
8 participant's eligible tuition expenses for the one academic year of
9 medical school attendance in which tuition was the lowest.

10

11 3. To be eligible to participate in the program, an applicant
12 shall:

13 a. be a resident of New Jersey;

14 b. be a State-licensed physician who has successfully
15 completed all educational and residency training requirements for
16 the practice of psychiatry;

17 c. apply for the program within one year of completing an
18 accredited residency training program in psychiatry ¹, or within one
19 year of completing an accredited fellowship in child and adolescent
20 psychiatry¹; and

21 d. agree to practice full-time as a psychiatrist in a State
22 underserved area ¹or in a State psychiatric hospital¹ for a period of
23 one to four years in return for the tuition reimbursement provided
24 under the program.

25

26 4. a. The Commissioner of Health ¹, in consultation with the
27 Commissioner of Human Services,¹ shall designate State
28 underserved areas which have a shortage of psychiatrists. In
29 designating State underserved areas, the commissioner shall
30 consider health status criteria and economic indicators including,
31 but not limited to, the financial resources of the population who
32 resides in the area under consideration, and the population's access
33 to mental health care services.

34 b. The Commissioner of Health shall transmit to the authority a
35 list of the State underserved areas and the projected number of
36 psychiatrists needed in each area.

37 ¹c. The Commissioner of Human Services shall transmit to the
38 authority a list of the State psychiatric hospitals and the projected
39 number of psychiatrists needed in each hospital.¹

40

41 5. The contract entered into between a program participant and
42 the authority pursuant to section 2 of this act shall require a
43 program participant to:

44 a. charge for professional services at the usual and customary
45 rate prevailing in the State underserved area, but allow a patient
46 who is unable to pay that charge to pay at a reduced rate or receive
47 care at no charge;

- 1 b. not discriminate against any patient in the provision of
2 mental health care services on the basis of that person's ability to
3 pay or source of payment; and
- 4 c. agree not to impose any charge in excess of the limiting fee
5 for a service, as determined by the United States Secretary of
6 Health and Human Services, to a recipient of benefits under the
7 federal Medicare program established pursuant to Pub.L.89-97 (42
8 U.S.C. s.1395 et seq.).
9
- 10 6. A program participant, as a condition of participation, shall
11 be required to adhere to performance standards established by the
12 authority. The standards shall include, but not be limited to,
13 requirements that a program participant:
- 14 a. maintain residency in the State;
15 b. maintain a license to practice medicine in the State;
16 c. remain current with payments on any student loans;
17 d. maintain satisfactory performance of services rendered in a
18 State underserved area ¹or in a State psychiatric hospital¹; and
19 e. report to the authority, on a form and in a manner prescribed
20 by the authority, on the program participant's performance of
21 services rendered prior to reimbursement of tuition under the
22 program.
23
- 24 7. An individual who is participating in the Primary Care
25 Practitioner Loan Redemption Program, N.J.S.18A:71C-32 et seq.,
26 or in the federally administered National Health Service Corps Loan
27 Repayment Program, section 338B of the Public Health Service Act
28 (42 U.S.C. s.2541-1), shall not be eligible to participate
29 simultaneously in the tuition reimbursement program established
30 pursuant to this act.
31
- 32 8. The authority shall promulgate regulations pursuant to the
33 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
34 seq.), necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.
35
- 36 9. This act shall take effect immediately.