


MEMORANDUM

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| DATE | March 2, 2017 |
| TO | Policy and Advocacy Committee |
| FROM |  Konnor Leitzell Central Services Student Assistant |
| SUBJECT | Agenda Item #7(a)(i)(C) – AB 1188 (Nazarian) Health Professionals Development: Loan Repayment |

Background:

The bill would increase the biennial fee collected at the time of renewal from specified Board of Psychology (Board) and Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) licensees from \$10.00 to \$20.00, which would be deposited in the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund. This bill would also allow licensed professional clinical counselors to be eligible for grants to reimburse education loans, and add a fee of \$20.00 at the time of renewal for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors, which would be deposited in the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund.

This bill would increase the amount of Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund grants available to Board licensees and would help increase access to mental health services in underserved and vulnerable communities in California.

A full analysis of AB 1188 is attached for the Committees' review.

Location: Assembly

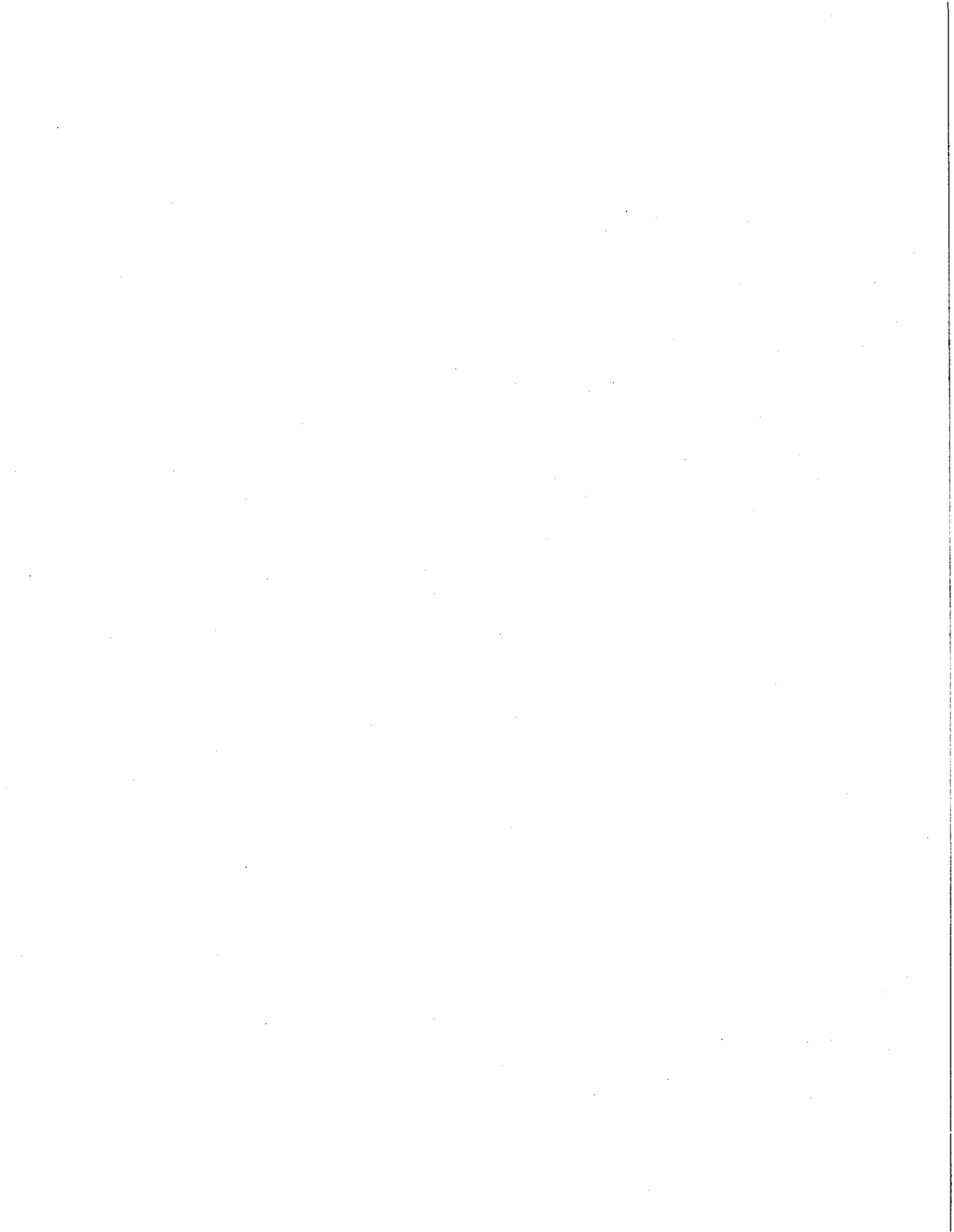
Status: 02/17/2017 Introduced

Action Requested:

The staff recommendation is for the Committee to adopt a "Support" position for AB 1188 (Hernandez).

Attachment A: Staff Analysis of AB 1188 (Nazarian)

Attachment B: AB 1188 (Nazarian) Text



2017 Bill Analysis

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Author: Nazarian | Bill Number: AB 1188 | Related Bills: Not Applicable |
| Sponsor: None | Version: Introduced | |
| Subject: Health Professions Development: Loan Repayment | | |

SUMMARY

The bill would increase the biennial fee collected at the time of renewal from specified Board of Psychology (Board) and Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) licensees from \$10.00 to \$20.00, which would be deposited in the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund. This bill would also allow licensed professional clinical counselors to be eligible for grants to reimburse education loans, and add a fee of \$20.00 at the time of renewal for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors, which would be deposited in the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund.

RECOMMENDATION

SUPPORT – This bill, if passed, would help increase access to mental health care for underserved communities by providing larger incentives to licensees who are working with these vulnerable populations.

REASON FOR THE BILL

The intent of this bill is to allow Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors to be eligible for the Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program to aid in the repayment of loans taken during their educational track. Similar to Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Clinical Social Workers, and licensed psychologists, LPCCs have the ability to provide services during a time where the state is experiencing a critical shortage in mental health care providers. The benefit of expanding the loan repayment program to LPCCs is two-fold: 1) LPCCs may find some financial alleviation in the repayment of loans; and, 2) traditionally underserved populations will now have a greater number of licensed mental health professionals providing services in their area.

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| Other Boards/Departments that may be affected: Board of Behavioral Science | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change in Fee(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Affects Licensing Processes <input type="checkbox"/> Affects Enforcement Processes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urgency Clause <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations Required <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Reporting <input type="checkbox"/> New Appointment Required | |
| Policy & Advocacy Committee Position: <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support if Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose Unless Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Watch Date: _____ Vote: _____ | Full Board Position: <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support if Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose Unless Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Watch Date: _____ Vote: _____ |

ANALYSIS

Under current law, the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund provides grants to eligible licensed mental health service providers who are employed at a publicly funded, or a public or nonprofit private mental health facility that contracts with county mental health entities to provide mental health services, and who provide direct patient care in a publicly funded facility or a mental health professional shortage area. A "Licensed mental health service provider" refers to Board licensees (psychologists, registered psychologists, postdoctoral psychological assistants), postdoctoral psychology trainees employed in an exempt setting or employed pursuant to a California Department of Public Health or Department of Health Care Services waivers, marriage and family therapists, marriage and family therapist interns, licensed clinical social workers, and associate clinical social workers.

In addition to the biennial renewal of license fees collected by both the Board and BBS, an additional fee is collected from licensees in order to help fund The Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund. Under current law, this fee is set at \$10.00 for each renewal. This bill, if passed, would increase that fee to \$20.00 for each renewal.

This bill would require that licensed professional clinical counselors be added to the definition of "licensed mental health professionals", allowing them to be eligible for grants under this program for reimbursing educational loans related to a career as a licensed mental health service provider. This bill would require BBS to collect an additional \$20.00 fee at the time of renewal of a license for a professional clinical counselor, which would be deposited in the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund.

This bill is intended to help increase access to mental health care for underserved communities by providing larger incentives to licensees who are working with these vulnerable populations. This bill would allow an additional licensee population to be eligible for grants in order to reimburse educational loans accrued for the purpose of becoming a licensed mental health provider. By increasing the fees deposited to the Mental Health Practitioner Fund, more grants will be awarded, which will result in more providers serving vulnerable populations in underserved communities in California.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

SB 1204 (Hernandez, 2016) would have increased the fees for the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund to \$20 for specified licensees of the Board and BBS. SB 1204 also included the licensed professional clinical counselors to the eligibility list for grants. Originally, this bill would have also included licensed physicians and osteopathic physicians licensed by the Medical Board of California. SB 1204 was pulled by the author and did not meet the deadlines for the legislative year.

OTHER STATES' INFORMATION

Not Applicable

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Board advances quality psychological services for Californians by ensuring ethical and legal practice and supporting the evolution of the practice. To accomplish this, the Board regulates licensed psychologists, psychological assistants, and registered psychologists.

Implementation of this bill would require changes to fee amounts in the BreEZe system; staff would also need to update renewal forms to reflect the new fee amount.

FISCAL IMPACT

In order to implement this bill, Board staff would need to make changes to BreEZe fee amounts and update renewal forms, the cost of which would be minor and absorbable for the Board.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

This bill would increase the amount of funds available for loan repayment and therefore assist licensees reduce loan debt.

LEGAL IMPACT

Not Applicable

APPOINTMENTS

Not Applicable

SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

Support: None on file

Opposition: None on file

ARGUMENTS

Proponents: Not applicable

Opponents: Not Applicable

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1188

Introduced by Assembly Member Nazarian

February 17, 2017

An act to amend Sections 2987.2, 4984.75, and 4996.65 of, and to add Section 4999.121 to, the Business and Professions Code, and to amend Section 128454 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to health professions development, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1188, as introduced, Nazarian. Health professions development: loan repayment.

(1) Existing law authorizes any licensed mental health service provider, as defined, including a mental health service provider who is employed at a publicly funded mental health facility or a public or nonprofit private mental health facility that contracts with a county mental health entity or facility to provide mental health services, and who provides direct patient care in a publicly funded facility or a mental health professional shortage area, to apply for grants under the Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program to reimburse his or her educational loans related to a career as a licensed mental health service provider, as specified. Existing law establishes the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund and provides that moneys in that fund are available, upon appropriation, for purposes of the Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program.

This bill would add licensed professional clinical counselors to those licensed mental health service providers eligible for grants to reimburse educational loans.

1 SEC. 2. Section 4984.75 of the Business and Professions Code
2 is amended to read:

3 4984.75. In addition to the fees charged pursuant to Section
4 4984.7 for the biennial renewal of a license pursuant to Section
5 4984, the board shall collect an additional fee of ~~ten~~ *twenty* dollars
6 ~~(\$10)~~ *(\$20)* at the time of renewal. The board shall transfer this
7 amount to the Controller who shall deposit the funds in the Mental
8 Health Practitioner Education Fund.

9 SEC. 3. Section 4996.65 of the Business and Professions Code
10 is amended to read:

11 4996.65. In addition to the fees charged pursuant to Section
12 4996.6 for the biennial renewal of a license, the board shall collect
13 an additional fee of ~~ten~~ *twenty* dollars ~~(\$10)~~ *(\$20)* at the time of
14 renewal. The board shall transfer this amount to the Controller
15 who shall deposit the funds in the Mental Health Practitioner
16 Education Fund.

17 SEC. 4. Section 4999.121 is added to the Business and
18 Professions Code, to read:

19 4999.121. In addition to the fees charged pursuant to Section
20 4999.120 for the biennial renewal of a license, the board shall
21 collect an additional fee of twenty dollars (\$20) at the time of
22 renewal. The board shall transfer this amount to the Controller
23 who shall deposit the funds in the Mental Health Practitioner
24 Education Fund.

25 SEC. 5. Section 128454 of the Health and Safety Code is
26 amended to read:

27 128454. (a) There is hereby created the Licensed Mental Health
28 Service Provider Education Program within the Health Professions
29 Education Foundation.

30 (b) For purposes of this article, the following definitions shall
31 apply:

32 (1) "Licensed mental health service provider" means a
33 psychologist licensed by the Board of Psychology, registered
34 psychologist, postdoctoral psychological assistant, postdoctoral
35 psychology trainee employed in an exempt setting pursuant to
36 Section 2910 of the Business and Professions Code, or employed
37 pursuant to a State Department of Health Care Services waiver
38 pursuant to Section 5751.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code,
39 marriage and family therapist, marriage and family therapist intern,

1 (3) A loan forgiveness grant may be provided in installments
2 proportionate to the amount of the service obligation that has been
3 completed.

4 (4) The number of persons who may be considered for the
5 program shall be limited by the funds made available pursuant to
6 Section 128458.

7 SEC. 6. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
8 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within
9 the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall
10 go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

11 In order to address the urgent need for licensed mental health
12 practitioners in medically underserved areas, it is necessary that
13 this act take effect immediately.