



Rep. Lou Lang

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10000HB5109ham001

LRB100 19021 AXK 37179 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 5109

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 5109 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment
6 Program Act.

7 Section 5. Purpose. The purpose of the Community Behavioral
8 Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program is to recruit
9 and retain qualified mental health and substance use
10 professionals to practice in underserved or rural areas and to
11 address this State's community-based behavioral health care
12 workforce shortage that causes disparities in access to
13 critical mental health and substance use services.

14 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

15 "Commission" means the Illinois Student Assistance

1 Commission.

2 "Physician" means a person licensed by this State to
3 practice medicine in all its branches and includes any person
4 holding a temporary license, as provided in the Medical
5 Practice Act of 1987.

6 "Program" means the Community Behavioral Health Care
7 Professional Loan Repayment Program.

8 "Psychiatrist" or "licensed psychiatrist" means a
9 physician who has successfully completed a residency program in
10 psychiatry accredited by either the Accreditation Council for
11 Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic
12 Association.

13 Section 15. Establishment of Program. Beginning on July 1,
14 2019, there is created the Community Behavioral Health Care
15 Professional Loan Repayment Program, which shall be
16 administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.
17 The Program shall provide loan assistance, subject to
18 appropriation, to eligible mental health and substance use
19 professionals practicing in a community mental health center in
20 an underserved or rural federally designated Mental Health
21 Professional Shortage Area.

22 Section 20. Applications. Each year, the Commission shall
23 receive and consider applications for loan repayment
24 assistance under this Act. All applications must be submitted

1 to the Commission in a form and manner prescribed by the
2 Commission. Applicants must submit any supporting documents
3 deemed necessary by the Commission at the time of application.

4 Section 25. Award; maximum loan time; maximum amount.
5 Subject to appropriation, the Commission shall award a grant to
6 each qualified applicant for a maximum of 4 years. The
7 Commission must encourage the recipient of a grant awarded
8 under this Act to use the grant award for payments towards the
9 recipient's educational loans. The amount of the grant shall
10 not exceed (i) \$35,000 per year for a psychiatrist, (ii)
11 \$15,000 per year for an advanced practice registered nurse or a
12 physician assistant, (iii) \$12,000 per year for a psychologist
13 who holds a doctoral degree, (iv) \$6,500 per year for a
14 licensed clinical social worker or a licensed clinical
15 professional counselor, and (v) \$2,500 per year for a substance
16 use professional. All applications must be submitted to the
17 Commission in a form and manner prescribed by the Commission.
18 Applicants must submit any supporting documents deemed
19 necessary by the Commission at the time of application.

20 Section 30. Eligibility; work agreement.

21 (a) To be eligible for assistance under the Community
22 Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program,
23 the Commission must find that the applicant satisfies all of
24 the following:

1 (1) He or she is a United States citizen or an eligible
2 noncitizen.

3 (2) He or she is a resident of this State.

4 (3) He or she has worked for at least 12 consecutive
5 months as a behavioral health professional in a community
6 mental health center in an underserved or rural federally
7 designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Area in
8 this State.

9 (4) He or she is a borrower with an outstanding balance
10 due on an educational loan.

11 (5) He or she has not defaulted on an educational loan.

12 (b) The Commission may grant preference to a previous
13 recipient of a grant under the Program, provided that the
14 recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements under
15 this Section.

16 (c) A recipient of a grant under the Program must agree to
17 work for at least 12 consecutive months in a community mental
18 health center in an underserved or rural federally designated
19 Mental Health Professional Shortage Area in this State for each
20 grant that he or she is awarded.

21 Section 35. Repayment upon default; exceptions.

22 (a) If a recipient of a grant awarded under this Act fails
23 to fulfill the work agreement required under the Program, the
24 Commission must require the recipient to repay the amount of
25 the grant received, prorated according to the fraction of the

1 work agreement not completed, and must collect interest at a
2 rate of 5% and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees.

3 (b) Payments received by the Commission under this Section
4 shall be remitted to the State Comptroller for deposit into the
5 General Revenue Fund, except that the portion of a recipient's
6 repayment that equals the amount in expenses that the
7 Commission has reasonably incurred in attempting collection
8 from that recipient shall be remitted to the State Comptroller
9 for deposit into the Commission's Accounts Receivable Fund.

10 (c) A recipient of a grant awarded by the Commission under
11 this Act is not in violation of the work agreement entered into
12 pursuant to the Program if the recipient is (i) serving as a
13 member of the armed services of the United States, (ii) a
14 person with a temporary total disability, as established by a
15 sworn affidavit of a qualified physician, (iii) seeking and
16 unable to find full-time employment as a community behavioral
17 health professional and is able to provide evidence of that
18 fact, or (iv) taking additional courses, on at least a
19 half-time basis, related to behavioral health. Any extension of
20 the period during which the work requirement must be fulfilled
21 is subject to limitations of duration established by the
22 Commission.

23 Section 40. Administration; rules. The Commission shall
24 administer the Program and shall adopt rules not inconsistent
25 with this Act for the Program's effective implementation."