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**HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE - HSC**

**DIVISION 10.5. ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS [11750 - 11975]** ( *Heading of Division 10.5 amended by Stats. 2013, Ch. 22, Sec. 18.* )

**PART 2. STATE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE INAPPROPRIATE USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND OTHER DRUG USE [11760 - 11872]** ( *Heading of Part 2 amended by Stats. 2004, Ch. 862, Sec. 43.* )

**CHAPTER 3.6. Substance Use Disorder Workforce Development [11794.5 - 11794.6]** ( *Chapter 3.6 added by Stats. 2022, Ch. 7, Sec. 3.* )

**11794.5.** (a) (1) On or before July 1, 2023, the State Department of Health Care Services shall develop a statewide substance use disorder (SUD) workforce needs assessment report that evaluates the current state of the SUD workforce, determines barriers to entry into the SUD workforce, and assesses the state's systems for regulating and supporting the SUD workforce. The evaluation shall include an assessment of existing tuition, scholarship, and grant programs available to students, with a particular focus on those students who represent vulnerable populations, and provide recommendations for expanding these programs. The department shall submit this report to the Legislature and post the report on its internet website.

(2) A report to be submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(b) (1) The department may contract with a qualified individual, organization, or entity to implement subdivision (a).

(2) Contracts entered into or amended pursuant to this section may be entered into on a noncompetitive bid basis, and are exempt from Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 14825) of Part 5.5 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, Part 2 (commencing with Section 10100) of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code, the State Administrative Manual, and from the review or approval of any division of the Department of General Services.

(*Added by Stats. 2022, Ch. 7, Sec. 3. (AB 666) Effective January 1, 2023.*)

**11794.6.** (a) The Department of Health Care Access and Information may implement SUD workforce development programming, including, but not limited to, any of the following elements:

(1) Paid tuition for students attending vocational education programs related to substance use disorders approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education.

(2) Stipends to cover costs related to testing, registration, and certification for individuals who are seeking registration and certification with a certifying organization approved by the department pursuant to Section 11833.

(3) Stipends to cover costs of portfolio review for individuals who are seeking registration and certification with a certifying organization approved by the department pursuant to Section 11833.

(4) Tuition reimbursement for undergraduate and graduate students who complete coursework in programs related to SUDs.

(5) Tuition reimbursement for licensed mental health and medical professionals to complete SUD-specific courses.

(6) Grants for behavioral health organizations to recruit and train individuals representing vulnerable populations.

(b) This section shall become operative only upon appropriation. Upon an appropriation by the Legislature for these purposes, the department shall make reasonable efforts to implement the program elements specified in subdivision (a), so that SUD services can be expanded to meet the needs of those individuals seeking those services.

