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AB-2608 Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program: former foster youth. (2017-2018)



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Assembly Bill No. 2608

CHAPTER 585

An act to add Section 128455 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health professions.

[Approved by Governor September 20, 2018. Filed with Secretary of State September 20, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2608, Mark Stone. Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program: former foster youth.

Existing law authorizes any licensed mental health service provider, as defined, including a marriage and family therapist, associate marriage and family therapist, licensed clinical social worker, and associate clinical social worker, who provides direct patient care in a publicly funded facility or a mental health professional shortage area, as defined, 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 by the Legislature, for purposes of the Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program.

This bill would require an account to be created within the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, would require moneys in that account to be used solely to fund grants to repay educational loans for applicants who commit to practice in specified facilities for at least 24 months, who are marriage and family therapists, associate marriage and family therapists, licensed clinical social workers, associate clinical social workers, licensed professional clinical counselors, or associate professional clinical counselors, and who were formerly in California's foster youth care system.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 128455 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

128455. An account shall be created within the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, moneys in that account shall be used solely to fund grants, consistent with this article, to repay educational loans for applicants who meet all of the following requirements:

- (a) Commit to provide direct patient care in a publicly funded facility or a mental health professional shortage area for at least 24 months.
- (b) Are marriage and family therapists, associate marriage and family therapists, licensed clinical social workers, associate clinical social workers, licensed professional clinical counselors, or associate professional clinical counselors.

