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**HOUSE BILL 1721**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Orwall, Goodman, Peterson, Dolan, Valdez,  
Tarleton, Slatter, and Pollet

Read first time 01/29/19. Referred to Committee on College &  
Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding treatment for individuals at risk of  
2 suicide by promoting training in evidence-based practices; amending  
3 RCW 28B.115.050, 28B.115.070, 28B.115.080, and 28B.115.120; and  
4 adding a new section to chapter 28B.20 RCW.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
9 specific purpose, the University of Washington shall establish  
10 certificate programs to educate behavioral health care professionals  
11 in evidence-based practices. The certificate programs must be  
12 established as follows:

13 (1)(a) The University of Washington school of social work, in  
14 collaboration with the University of Washington department of  
15 psychology, shall establish a certificate program in evidence-based  
16 dialectical behavior therapy practices that have been shown to be  
17 effective in treating patients with mental health disorders and those  
18 who are at risk of suicide.

19 (b) The certificate program must be designed for graduate  
20 students pursuing a master's of social work.

1 (2) (a) The University of Washington department of psychiatry and  
2 behavioral sciences division of public behavioral health and justice  
3 policy shall establish a certificate program in evidence-based  
4 dialectical behavior therapy practices that have been shown to be  
5 effective in treating patients with mental health disorders and those  
6 who are at risk of suicide.

7 (b) The certificate program must be designed for licensed  
8 behavioral health care professionals who wish to receive additional  
9 education in evidence-based dialectical behavior therapy practices.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.115.050 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 206 are each  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 The office shall establish a planning committee to assist it in  
13 developing criteria for the selection of participants. The office  
14 shall include on the planning committee representatives of the  
15 department, the department of social and health services, appropriate  
16 representatives from health care facilities, provider groups,  
17 consumers, the state board for community and technical colleges, the  
18 superintendent of public instruction, and other appropriate public  
19 and private agencies and organizations. The criteria may require that  
20 some of the participants meet the definition of "needy student" under  
21 RCW 28B.92.030. The criteria must also include whether a credentialed  
22 health care professional has a certificate in dialectical behavior  
23 therapy.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.115.070 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 1 s 958 are each  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (1) After June 1, 1992, the department, in consultation with the  
27 office and the department of social and health services, shall:

28 (a) Determine eligible credentialed health care professions for  
29 the purposes of the loan repayment and scholarship program authorized  
30 by this chapter. Eligibility shall be based upon an assessment that  
31 determines that there is a shortage or insufficient availability of a  
32 credentialed profession so as to jeopardize patient care and pose a  
33 threat to the public health and safety. The department shall consider  
34 the relative degree of shortages among professions when determining  
35 eligibility. The department may add or remove professions from  
36 eligibility based upon the determination that a profession is no  
37 longer in shortage. Should a profession no longer be eligible,  
38 participants or eligible students who have received scholarships

1 shall be eligible to continue to receive scholarships or loan  
2 repayments until they are no longer eligible or until their service  
3 obligation has been completed;

4 (b) Determine health professional shortage areas for each of the  
5 eligible credentialed health care professions.

6 ~~(2) ((For the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium, consideration for  
7 eligibility shall also be given to registered nursing students who  
8 have been accepted into an eligible nursing education program and  
9 have declared an intention to teach nursing upon completion of the  
10 nursing education program.))~~ (3) Beginning with the 2020 award cycle,

11 the planning committee established under RCW 28B.115.050 shall devote  
12 fifty percent of the loan repayment awards to credentialed health  
13 care professionals who are employed in a designated health  
14 professional shortage area and are providing behavioral health  
15 services. The planning committee may devote less than fifty percent  
16 of the loan repayment awards if there are not enough qualified  
17 applicants providing behavioral health services in any given award  
18 cycle.

19 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.115.080 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 208 are each  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 (1) After June 1, 1992, the office, in consultation with the  
22 department and the department of social and health services, shall:

23 ~~((1))~~ (a) Establish the annual award amount for each  
24 credentialed health care profession which shall be based upon an  
25 assessment of reasonable annual eligible expenses involved in  
26 training and education for each credentialed health care profession.  
27 The annual award amount may be established at a level less than  
28 annual eligible expenses. The annual award amount shall be  
29 established by the office for each eligible health profession. The  
30 awards shall not be paid for more than a maximum of five years per  
31 individual;

32 ~~((2))~~ (b) Determine any scholarship awards for prospective  
33 physicians in such a manner to require the recipients declare an  
34 interest in serving in rural areas of the state of Washington.  
35 Preference for scholarships shall be given to students who reside in  
36 a rural physician shortage area or a nonshortage rural area of the  
37 state prior to admission to the eligible education and training  
38 program in medicine. Highest preference shall be given to students  
39 seeking admission who are recommended by sponsoring communities and

1 who declare the intent of serving as a physician in a rural area. The  
2 office may require the sponsoring community located in a nonshortage  
3 rural area to financially contribute to the eligible expenses of a  
4 medical student if the student will serve in the nonshortage rural  
5 area;

6 ~~((3))~~ (c) Establish the required service obligation for each  
7 credentialed health care profession, which shall be no less than  
8 three years or no more than five years. The required service  
9 obligation may be based upon the amount of the scholarship or loan  
10 repayment award such that higher awards involve longer service  
11 obligations on behalf of the participant;

12 ~~((4))~~ (d) Determine eligible education and training programs  
13 for purposes of the scholarship portion of the program;

14 ~~((5))~~ (e) Honor loan repayment and scholarship contract terms  
15 negotiated between the office and participants prior to May 21, 1991,  
16 concerning loan repayment and scholarship award amounts and service  
17 obligations authorized under this chapter or chapter ~~((28B.115,~~  
18 ~~28B.104, or))~~ 70.180 RCW.

19 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
20 specific purpose and beginning with the 2020-21 academic year, the  
21 office, in consultation with an organization that certifies health  
22 care professionals in dialectical behavior therapy, shall award  
23 conditional scholarships to graduate students and credentialed health  
24 care professionals enrolled in evidence-based dialectical behavior  
25 therapy certificate programs established under section 1 of this act.  
26 The office shall determine the amount of the conditional scholarship.

27 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28B.115.120 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 211 are each  
28 amended to read as follows:

29 (1) (a) Participants in the health professional loan repayment and  
30 scholarship program who are awarded scholarships under RCW  
31 28B.115.080(1) incur an obligation to repay the scholarship, with  
32 penalty and interest, unless they serve the required service  
33 obligation in a health professional shortage area in the state of  
34 Washington.

35 (b) Participants who receive a conditional scholarship under RCW  
36 28B.115.080(2) incur an obligation to repay the scholarship, with  
37 penalty and interest, unless they serve for three years at a public  
38 behavioral health site, to be determined by the office in  
39 consultation with the department.

1 (2) The interest rate shall be determined by the office and  
2 established by rule.

3 (3) The period for repayment shall coincide with the required  
4 service obligation, with payments of principal and interest  
5 commencing no later than six months from the date the participant  
6 completes or discontinues the course of study or completes or  
7 discontinues the required postgraduate training. Provisions for  
8 deferral of payment shall be determined by the office.

9 (4) The entire principal and interest of each payment shall be  
10 forgiven for each payment period in which the participant serves in a  
11 health professional shortage area until the entire repayment  
12 obligation is satisfied or the borrower ceases to so serve. Should  
13 the participant cease to serve in a health professional shortage area  
14 or a public behavioral health site of this state before the  
15 participant's repayment obligation is completed, payment of the  
16 unsatisfied portion of the principal and interest is due and payable  
17 immediately.

18 (5) (a) In addition to the amount determined in subsection (4) of  
19 this section, except for circumstances beyond their control,  
20 participants who received a scholarship under RCW 28B.115.080(1) and  
21 who serve less than the required service obligation shall be obliged  
22 to pay a penalty of an amount equal to twice the unsatisfied portion  
23 of the principal.

24 (b) In addition to the amount determined under subsection (4) of  
25 this section, except for circumstances beyond their control,  
26 participants who received a conditional scholarship under RCW  
27 28B.115.080(2) and who serve less than the required service  
28 obligation shall be obligated to pay a penalty of an amount equal to  
29 the unsatisfied portion of the principal.

30 (6) Participants who are unable to pay the full amount due shall  
31 enter into a payment arrangement with the office for repayment  
32 including interest. The maximum period for repayment is ten years.

33 (7) The office is responsible for collection of repayments made  
34 under this section and shall exercise due diligence in such  
35 collection, maintaining all necessary records to ensure that maximum  
36 repayments are made. Collection and servicing of repayments under  
37 this section shall be pursued using the full extent of the law,  
38 including wage garnishment if necessary, and shall be performed by  
39 entities approved for such servicing by the Washington student loan  
40 guaranty association or its successor agency. The office is

1 responsible to forgive all or parts of such repayments under the  
2 criteria established in this section and shall maintain all necessary  
3 records of forgiven payments.

4 (8) Receipts from the payment of principal or interest or any  
5 other subsidies to which the office as administrator is entitled,  
6 which are paid by or on behalf of participants under this section,  
7 shall be deposited with the office and shall be used to cover the  
8 costs of granting the scholarships, maintaining necessary records,  
9 and making collections under subsection (7) of this section. The  
10 office shall maintain accurate records of these costs, and all  
11 receipts beyond those necessary to pay such costs shall be used to  
12 grant scholarships to eligible students.

13 (9) Sponsoring communities who financially contribute to the  
14 eligible financial expenses of eligible medical students may enter  
15 into agreements with the student to require repayment should the  
16 student not serve the required service obligation in the community as  
17 a primary care physician. The office may develop criteria for the  
18 content of such agreements with respect to reasonable provisions and  
19 obligations between communities and eligible students.

20 (10) The office may make exceptions to the conditions for  
21 participation and repayment obligations should circumstances beyond  
22 the control of individual participants warrant such exceptions. The  
23 office shall establish an appeal process by rule.

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