

AMENDMENTS TO LB1068

Introduced by Blood, 3.

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 Section 1. Section 71-829, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 71-829 (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

6 (a) Ninety-five percent of counties in Nebraska are classified as
7 behavioral health profession shortage areas by the federal Health
8 Resources and Services Administration and the Nebraska Department of
9 Health and Human Services;

10 (b) There are severe behavioral health workforce shortages in rural
11 and underserved areas of the state which negatively impact access to
12 appropriate behavioral health services for Nebraska residents; and

13 (c) Nebraska must act to address immediate needs and implement long-
14 term strategies to alleviate education, recruitment, and retention
15 challenges in the behavioral health field.

16 ~~The Legislature finds that there are insufficient behavioral health~~
17 ~~professionals in the Nebraska behavioral health workforce and further~~
18 ~~that there are insufficient behavioral health professionals trained in~~
19 ~~evidence-based practice. This workforce shortage leads to inadequate~~
20 ~~accessibility and response to the behavioral health needs of Nebraskans~~
21 ~~of all ages: Children; adolescents; and adults. These shortages have led~~
22 ~~to well-documented problems of consumers waiting for long periods of time~~
23 ~~in inappropriate settings because appropriate placement and care is not~~
24 ~~available. As a result, mentally ill patients end up in hospital~~
25 ~~emergency rooms which are the most expensive level of care or are~~
26 ~~incarcerated and do not receive adequate care, if any.~~

27 ~~As the state moves from institutional to community-based behavioral~~

1 ~~health services, the behavioral health services workforce shortage is~~
2 ~~increasingly felt by the inability to hire and retain behavioral health~~
3 ~~professionals in Nebraska. In Laws 2004, LB 1083, the Legislature pledged~~
4 ~~to "promote activities in research and education to improve the quality~~
5 ~~of behavioral health services, the recruitment and retention of~~
6 ~~behavioral health professionals, and the availability of behavioral~~
7 ~~health services". The purpose of the Behavioral Health Workforce Act is~~
8 ~~to realize the commitment made in LB 1083 to improve community-based~~
9 ~~behavioral health services for Nebraskans and thus focus on addressing~~
10 ~~behavioral health issues before they become a crisis through increasing~~
11 ~~the number of behavioral health professionals and train these~~
12 ~~professionals in evidence-based practice and alternative delivery methods~~
13 ~~which will improve the quality of care, including utilizing the existing~~
14 ~~infrastructure and telehealth services which will expand outreach to more~~
15 ~~rural areas in Nebraska.~~

16 Sec. 2. Section 71-830, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
17 amended to read:

18 71-830 (1) The Behavioral Health Education Center is created and
19 shall be administered by the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

20 (2) The center shall:

21 (a)(i) Provide funds for up to ten ~~two~~ additional medical residents,
22 physician assistants, or psychiatric nurse practitioners in a Nebraska-
23 based psychiatry program each year ~~starting in 2010 until a total of~~
24 ~~eight additional psychiatry residents are added in 2013.~~ The center shall
25 provide psychiatric residency training experiences that serve rural
26 Nebraska and other underserved areas. As part of the ~~his or her~~ residency
27 training experience ~~experiences~~, each center-funded resident, physician
28 assistant, or psychiatric nurse practitioner shall participate in the
29 rural training for a minimum of three months ~~one year~~. A minimum of three
30 ~~two~~ of the ten ~~eight~~ center-funded residents, physician assistants, or
31 psychiatric nurse practitioners shall be active in the rural training

1 each year;~~and~~

2 (ii) Provide funds for up to twelve ~~five~~ one-year doctoral-level
3 psychology internships in Nebraska ~~within twelve months after July 18,~~
4 ~~2014, and every year thereafter and increase the number of interns in the~~
5 ~~program to ten within thirty six months after July 18, 2014.~~ The interns
6 shall be placed in communities so as to increase access to behavioral
7 health services for patients residing in rural and underserved areas of
8 Nebraska; and

9 (iii) Provide funds for up to ten one-year mental health therapist
10 internships or practicums in Nebraska. The trainees shall be placed in
11 rural and underserved communities in order to increase access to
12 behavioral health services for patients residing in such areas of
13 Nebraska;

14 (b) Focus on the training of behavioral health professionals in
15 telehealth techniques, including taking advantage of a telehealth network
16 that exists, and other innovative means of care delivery in order to
17 increase access to behavioral health services for all Nebraskans;

18 (c) Analyze the geographic and demographic availability of Nebraska
19 behavioral health professionals, including psychiatrists, social workers,
20 community rehabilitation workers, psychologists, substance abuse
21 counselors, licensed mental health practitioners, behavioral analysts,
22 peer support providers, primary care physicians, nurses, nurse
23 practitioners, pharmacists, and physician assistants;

24 (d) Prioritize the need for additional professionals by type and
25 location;

26 (e) Establish learning collaborative partnerships with other higher
27 education institutions in the state, hospitals, law enforcement,
28 community-based agencies, public school districts, and consumers and
29 their families in order to develop evidence-based, recovery-focused,
30 interdisciplinary curricula and training for behavioral health
31 professionals delivering behavioral health services in community-based

1 agencies, hospitals, and law enforcement. Development and dissemination
2 of such curricula and training shall address the identified priority
3 needs for behavioral health professionals; ~~and~~

4 ~~(f) Establish and operate six Beginning in 2011, develop two~~
5 ~~interdisciplinary behavioral health training sites each year until a~~
6 ~~total of six sites have been developed.~~ Four of the six sites shall be in
7 counties with a population of fewer than fifty thousand inhabitants. Each
8 site shall provide annual interdisciplinary training opportunities for a
9 minimum of ~~six~~ three behavioral health professionals; ~~and -~~

10 (g) Educate behavioral health providers and facilities to integrate
11 behavioral health care into primary care practice and licensed health
12 care facilities in order to place well-trained behavioral health
13 providers into primary care practices, behavioral health practices, and
14 rural hospitals for the purpose of increasing access to behavioral health
15 services.

16 (3) No later than December 1 of every odd-numbered year, the center
17 shall prepare a report of its activities under the Behavioral Health
18 Workforce Act. The report shall be filed electronically with the Clerk of
19 the Legislature and shall be provided electronically to any member of the
20 Legislature upon request.

21 Sec. 3. The University of Nebraska shall conduct an assessment of
22 the environmental and human health effects of toxic chemicals. The
23 assessment shall include:

24 (1) An evaluation of adverse long-term environmental, ecological,
25 and human health effects of the chemicals released during (a) the
26 production of ethanol made from grain or seed treated with pesticide and
27 (b) the storage of byproducts created by the production of ethanol made
28 from grain or seed treated with pesticide; and

29 (2) An assessment of the effects of polluted ground water, soil, and
30 air relating to any ethanol production facility.

31 Sec. 4. Original sections 71-829 and 71-830, Reissue Revised

- 1 Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.
- 2 Sec. 5. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
- 3 passed and approved according to law.