

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 340—ASSEMBLYWOMAN JOINER

MARCH 16, 2015

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Establishes a health professional workforce liaison program. (BDR 40-1058)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to health care; establishing a health professional workforce liaison program within the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services; setting forth the duties of the Health Professional Workforce Liaison; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 **Section 1** of this bill establishes a health professional workforce liaison  
2 program within the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of  
3 Health and Human Services and sets forth the duties of the Health Professional  
4 Workforce Liaison. **Section 2** of this bill requires the Division to submit a report on  
5 the status and effectiveness of the program to the Legislative Committee on Health  
6 Care on or before August 1, 2016.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 439A of NRS is hereby amended by  
2 adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *1. The Department shall, within the limits of available money,*  
4 *establish and maintain a health professional workforce liaison*  
5 *program within the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of*  
6 *the Department. The program must be designed to enhance*  
7 *awareness within the Nevada System of Higher Education and*  
8 *other postsecondary educational institutions in this State that*  
9 *specialize in the education of health care professionals regarding*



1 *programs that support the education of health care professionals,*  
2 *including, without limitation, state and federal programs offering*  
3 *grants and loan forgiveness to graduates who work in underserved*  
4 *areas or with underserved populations.*

5 *2. The Health Professional Workforce Liaison shall, within*  
6 *the limits of available money:*

7 *(a) Collaborate with the Nevada System of Higher Education*  
8 *and other postsecondary educational institutions in this State that*  
9 *specialize in the education of health care professionals to plan and*  
10 *strategize regarding the best ways to provide outreach and recruit*  
11 *students and professionals into existing loan repayment, grant and*  
12 *scholarship programs that are available to health care*  
13 *professionals; and*

14 *(b) Report to the Administrator of the Division of Public and*  
15 *Behavioral Health regarding the status and effectiveness of the*  
16 *collaborative efforts described in paragraph (a).*

17 *3. To pay for the program created pursuant to subsection 1,*  
18 *the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department is*  
19 *authorized to use existing general funds allocated to the Division,*  
20 *or any bequests, devises, grants, gifts, donations or other available*  
21 *sources of money received by the Division for the support of the*  
22 *program.*

23 *4. As used in this section, “health care professional” has the*  
24 *meaning ascribed to it in NRS 629.076.*

25 **Sec. 2.** 1. On or before August 1, 2016, the Division of  
26 Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and  
27 Human Services shall submit a report to the Legislative Committee  
28 on Health Care established by NRS 439B.200 regarding the  
29 program established by section 1 of this act. The report must  
30 include, without limitation:

31 (a) Data regarding the available programs for funding health  
32 care workforce education in this State and the utilization of those  
33 programs by students and health care professionals;

34 (b) The status and effectiveness of the collaborations conducted  
35 in accordance with paragraph (a) of subsection 2 of section 1 of this  
36 act and any future plans the Division has to increase or expand such  
37 collaborations; and

38 (c) Recommendations regarding how to enhance the recruitment  
39 of students and health care professionals into programs that support  
40 the education of health care professionals in this State.

41 2. As used in this section, “health care professional” has the  
42 meaning ascribed to it in NRS 629.076.

43 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective:



- 1        1. Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting
- 2 regulations and performing any preparatory administrative tasks that
- 3 are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and
- 4        2. On January 1, 2016, for all other purposes.

