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**A.B. 37**

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ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 37—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE RURAL REGIONAL  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 16, 2022

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Referred to Committee on Revenue

**SUMMARY**—Authorizes the establishment of the Behavioral Health Workforce Development Center of Nevada. (BDR 34-361)

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

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

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AN ACT relating to behavioral health; authorizing the establishment of the Behavioral Health Workforce Development Center of Nevada at one or more institutions within the Nevada System of Higher Education; prescribing the structure and duties of the Center; authorizing the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to accept, receive, invest, disburse and account for money received for purposes related to the Center; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to  
2 administer: (1) a program to provide loans for fees, books and living expenses to  
3 students in the nursing programs of the Nevada System of Higher Education; and  
4 (2) the Nevada Health Service Corps, which repays the loans of practitioners of  
5 certain health professions who practice in areas of this State for which a shortage of  
6 that type of practitioner exists. (NRS 396.890, 396.900, 396.903) **Section 6** of this  
7 bill similarly authorizes the Board to establish the Behavioral Health Workforce  
8 Development Center of Nevada at one or more institutions within the System for  
9 purposes related to strengthening the workforce of providers of behavioral health  
10 care in this State. **Section 6** requires the Center to consist of: (1) a main hub located  
11 at an institution within the System; and (2) regional hubs in each of the five  
12 behavioral health regions into which this State is divided. (NRS 433.428) To the  
13 extent that money is available, **section 6** authorizes each institution at which the



14 Center is established to provide resources to support the Center in accomplishing its  
15 duties. **Sections 3-5** of this bill define terms related to the Center and its activities.  
16 If the Center is established, **section 7** of this bill requires the Center to establish  
17 a behavioral health workforce development consortium consisting of various  
18 persons and entities involved in education, behavioral health and workforce  
19 development. **Section 7** also requires the Center to develop and implement a  
20 strategic plan for the recruitment, education and retention of a qualified, diverse  
21 and evolving behavioral health workforce in this State. **Section 7** requires: (1) the  
22 strategic plan to include plans for convening and organizing the members of the  
23 consortium and other relevant persons and entities to create and implement  
24 strategies to develop the behavioral health workforce of this State; and (2) the  
25 Center, under the direction of the consortium, to carry out the duties prescribed by  
26 the strategic plan. **Section 8** of this bill requires the Center, if established, to  
27 perform various other duties related to strengthening the behavioral health  
28 workforce of this State, and **section 7** requires the strategic plan to include plans for  
29 performing those duties. **Section 9** of this bill authorizes the Board to: (1) accept  
30 gifts, grants and donations for the purposes of supporting the Center and its duties;  
31 and (2) receive, invest, disburse and account for all money received for that  
32 purpose. **Section 10** of this bill requires the Center, if established, to annually  
33 report to the Legislature, the Board, the Chancellor of the System and certain other  
34 entities concerning the activities of the Center.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this  
3 act.

4 **Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act,*  
5 *unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined*  
6 *in sections 3, 4 and 5 of this act have the meanings ascribed to*  
7 *them in those sections.*

8 **Sec. 3.** *“Behavioral health region” has the meaning ascribed*  
9 *to it in NRS 433.426.*

10 **Sec. 4.** *“Center” means the Behavioral Health Workforce*  
11 *Development Center of Nevada established pursuant to section 6*  
12 *of this act.*

13 **Sec. 5.** *“Provider of behavioral health care” means a person*  
14 *who is:*

15 1. *Licensed, certified or registered pursuant to chapter 641,*  
16 *641A, 641B, 641C or 641D of NRS;*

17 2. *Licensed as a physician, physician assistant or registered*  
18 *nurse and practices in psychiatry, addiction medicine or another*  
19 *specialty relating to behavioral health; or*

20 3. *A school counselor or school psychologist.*

21 **Sec. 6.** 1. *The Board of Regents may establish the*  
22 *Behavioral Health Workforce Development Center of Nevada at*  
23 *an institution or multiple institutions within the System.*



1       2. *The primary purposes of the Center must be to:*

2       (a) *Increase the number of graduates of high schools in this*  
3 *State who pursue higher education in fields related to behavioral*  
4 *health;*

5       (b) *Increase the number of graduates from programs for the*  
6 *education of providers of behavioral health care within the System*  
7 *who intern and practice in this State;*

8       (c) *Increase the number of providers of behavioral health care*  
9 *who have the specialized training necessary to address the most*  
10 *critical shortages of such providers in this State;*

11       (d) *Increase the number of supervisors and sites for*  
12 *internships for students and graduates of programs for the*  
13 *education of providers of behavioral health care;*

14       (e) *Decrease the amount of time between graduation from a*  
15 *program for the education of providers of behavioral health care*  
16 *and licensure, certification or registration and, if applicable,*  
17 *endorsement as such a provider; and*

18       (f) *Address other needs relating to the number and distribution*  
19 *of providers of behavioral health care in this State, as determined*  
20 *by the Center.*

21       3. *The Center must consist of:*

22       (a) *A main hub at one of the institutions at which the Center is*  
23 *established; and*

24       (b) *Regional hubs in each behavioral health region of this*  
25 *State.*

26       4. *To the extent that money is available for this purpose, each*  
27 *institution at which the Center is established may provide*  
28 *personnel, facilities, equipment and supplies to support the Center*  
29 *in carrying out the provisions of sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this*  
30 *act. Such personnel, facilities, equipment and supplies may*  
31 *include, without limitation:*

32       (a) *Facilities for conferences and training;*

33       (b) *The time and labor of the faculty and staff of the*  
34 *institution; and*

35       (c) *Equipment for telehealth, as defined in NRS 629.515, and*  
36 *distance learning.*

37       **Sec. 7. 1. If established, the Center shall:**

38       (a) *Establish a behavioral health workforce development*  
39 *consortium. The consortium must consist of:*

40           (1) *Institutions within the System;*

41           (2) *Providers of behavioral health care;*

42           (3) *The Department of Education and school districts;*

43           (4) *State and local law enforcement agencies;*

44           (5) *Consumers of behavioral health care;*



1 (6) Family members of consumers of behavioral health  
2 care;

3 (7) Hospitals and other facilities that provide behavioral  
4 health care;

5 (8) The Department of Health and Human Services, the  
6 Department of Veterans Services, the Department of Employment,  
7 Training and Rehabilitation and other relevant agencies of this  
8 State selected by the Center;

9 (9) Sites that provide internships for providers of  
10 behavioral health care;

11 (10) Representatives of members of the Armed Forces of  
12 the United States and the National Guard who are on active duty,  
13 veterans and families of such members and veterans;

14 (11) Representatives of historically marginalized  
15 communities, including, without limitation:

16 (I) Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning  
17 persons; and

18 (II) Persons of color;

19 (12) Representatives of persons with disabilities; and

20 (13) Other relevant persons and entities, as selected by the  
21 Center.

22 (b) Develop and implement a strategic plan for the  
23 recruitment, education and retention of a qualified, diverse and  
24 evolving behavioral health workforce in this State, with the  
25 highest priority placed on rural, frontier and underserved urban  
26 communities. The strategic plan must include, without limitation,  
27 plans for:

28 (1) Convening and organizing the members of the  
29 consortium created pursuant to paragraph (a) and other relevant  
30 persons and entities to develop and implement strategies to  
31 strengthen the behavioral health workforce in every behavioral  
32 health region of this State; and

33 (2) Performing the duties prescribed by section 8 of this act.

34 2. If established, the Center shall, under the direction of the  
35 consortium created pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1,  
36 perform the duties prescribed in the strategic plan developed  
37 pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1.

38 3. As used in this section, "veteran" has the meaning  
39 ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.

40 **Sec. 8.** In addition to the duties prescribed by sections 7 and  
41 10 of this act, the Center, if established, shall:

42 1. Through the regional hubs established pursuant to section  
43 6 of this act:



1 (a) Collaborate with other persons and entities to assess the  
2 specific behavioral health needs of each behavioral health region;  
3 and

4 (b) Engage in research and training specifically designed to  
5 address those needs.

6 2. Coordinate with the System, the Department of Health and  
7 Human Services, the Department of Education, the Department of  
8 Employment, Training and Rehabilitation and other state agencies  
9 involved in behavioral health, education and workforce  
10 development to promote the efficient utilization of state resources  
11 designated for those purposes.

12 3. Build partnerships with school districts, institutions within  
13 the System, occupational licensing boards that license, certify or  
14 register providers of behavioral health care, the Department of  
15 Education, the Department of Employment, Training and  
16 Rehabilitation and other public and private entities involved in  
17 workforce development to establish pipelines to careers in  
18 behavioral health from schools through professional practice.  
19 Such pipelines must focus on recruiting youth who are:

20 (a) From underserved and marginalized communities; or

21 (b) Interested in pursuing careers that address the most critical  
22 behavioral health needs of this State, including, without  
23 limitation, careers providing behavioral health care to children,  
24 the elderly and other underserved populations.

25 4. Develop and implement strategies to:

26 (a) Recruit adults who are interested in careers in behavioral  
27 health;

28 (b) Retain providers of behavioral health care who currently  
29 practice in this State; and

30 (c) Ensure that providers who participate in the pipelines  
31 established pursuant to subsection 3 ultimately practice in this  
32 State.

33 5. Collaborate with professional organizations for providers  
34 of behavioral health care, institutions that provide training and  
35 education for providers of behavioral health care and other  
36 relevant persons and entities to ensure the availability of high-  
37 quality continuing education on emerging, evidence-based  
38 practices for providing behavioral health care in various settings.

39 6. Provide or collaborate with other agencies to provide  
40 technical assistance for providers of behavioral health care  
41 regarding administrative issues and other nonacademic issues  
42 relating to the provision of behavioral health care in this State,  
43 including, without limitation:

44 (a) Obtaining a state business license and any necessary local  
45 licenses;



1 (b) *Planning the establishment and operation of a business to*  
2 *provide behavioral health care;*

3 (c) *Billing insurers for the provision of behavioral health care;*  
4 *and*

5 (d) *The management of staff.*

6 7. *Provide technical assistance to support the provision of*  
7 *graduate and postgraduate training in evidence-based practices*  
8 *for providing behavioral health care at existing and new sites for*  
9 *the provision of such training, with the highest priority placed on*  
10 *sites that serve rural, frontier and underserved urban*  
11 *communities.*

12 8. *Provide training for supervisors of graduate and*  
13 *postgraduate training for providers of behavioral health care, with*  
14 *the highest priority placed on supervisors who serve rural, frontier*  
15 *and underserved urban communities.*

16 9. *Collaborate with existing entities or establish new*  
17 *programs to assist adult students in pursuing the education and*  
18 *training necessary to become a provider of behavioral health care.*

19 10. *Coordinate with other entities to obtain or, where*  
20 *necessary, collect and analyze data to:*

21 (a) *Determine where providers of behavioral health care who*  
22 *practice in this State were born, educated and trained;*

23 (b) *Evaluate the progression of persons through programs for*  
24 *the education and training of providers of behavioral health care*  
25 *in this State and determine where such persons practice after*  
26 *completing those programs;*

27 (c) *Ensure the strength and success of pipelines to careers in*  
28 *behavioral health from schools through professional practice; and*

29 (d) *Identify the degree to which programs of education and*  
30 *training for providers of behavioral health care produce an*  
31 *adequate number of specialists to meet the needs of this State and*  
32 *each behavioral health region.*

33 11. *Collaborate with agencies involved in the education,*  
34 *training, licensure, certification, registration and endorsement of*  
35 *providers of behavioral health care to develop systems for:*

36 (a) *Identifying methods used by providers of education or*  
37 *training for providers of behavioral health care to prepare*  
38 *participants in programs of such education or training to correctly*  
39 *implement evidence-based practices for providing behavioral*  
40 *health care;*

41 (b) *Identifying the practices and therapeutic modalities being*  
42 *taught to participants in programs of education or training for*  
43 *providers of behavioral health care; and*



1 (c) *To the extent feasible, tracking the implementation of the*  
2 *methods, practices and modalities described in paragraphs (a) and*  
3 *(b) by providers of behavioral health care.*

4 12. *Monitor progress toward the goals prescribed in the*  
5 *strategic plan developed pursuant to section 7 of this act.*

6 13. *Perform the duties prescribed by this section and section*  
7 *7 of this act in a manner that leverages existing programs and*  
8 *resources and avoids duplication of efforts.*

9 **Sec. 9.** *The Board of Regents may:*

10 1. *Apply for and accept gifts, grants and donations for the*  
11 *purposes of carrying out the provisions of sections 2 to 10,*  
12 *inclusive, of this act.*

13 2. *Receive, invest, disburse and account for all money*  
14 *received for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of sections*  
15 *2 to 10, inclusive, of this act.*

16 **Sec. 10.** *On or before June 1 of each year, the Center, if*  
17 *established, shall:*

18 1. *Compile a report concerning its activities during the*  
19 *immediately preceding calendar year and planned activities for the*  
20 *current calendar year and following calendar years; and*

21 2. *Submit the report to:*

22 (a) *The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for*  
23 *transmittal to:*

24 (1) *The Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and*  
25 *Human Services; and*

26 (2) *The Joint Interim Standing Committee on Commerce*  
27 *and Labor;*

28 (b) *The Commission on Behavioral Health;*

29 (c) *Each regional behavioral health policy board created by*  
30 *NRS 433.429;*

31 (d) *The Board of Regents; and*

32 (e) *The Chancellor of the System.*

33 **Sec. 11.** *The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do*  
34 *not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a*  
35 *requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.*

36 **Sec. 12.** 1. *This section becomes effective upon passage and*  
37 *approval.*

38 2. *Sections 1 to 11, inclusive, of this act become effective:*

39 (a) *Upon passage and approval for the purpose of performing*  
40 *any preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out*  
41 *the provisions of this act; and*

42 (b) *On October 1, 2023, for all other purposes.*



