

**ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB603**

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**Hearing Date:** Thursday February 19, 2009  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services  
**Introducer:** Health and Human Services  
**One Liner:** Adopt the Behavioral Health Workforce Act and provide funding

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 7 Senators Campbell, Gay, Gloor, Howard, Pankonin, Stuthman, Wallman  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Proponents:**

Senator Gay  
Rhonda Hawks  
  
Helene Silverblatt  
Steven Wengel  
Robb Paulk  
Constance Zimmer  
Alan Green  
Cheryl Buda  
  
Terry Werner  
  
Topher Hansen  
Patricia Jurjevich

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Behavioral Health Support Foundation, Advocates for Behavioral Health, Behavioral Health Oversight Commission, Community Alliance, Nebraska Community College Association, Alegent Health, Nebraska Hospital Association, Lutheran Family Service, Nebraska Association of Regional Administrators  
Self  
Self  
Faith Regional Health Services  
National Alliance on Mental Illness-Nebraska  
Mental Health Association of Nebraska  
Nebraska Psychiatric Society, Nebraska Medical Association  
Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
NABHO, CenterPointe  
Nebraska Association of Regional Administrators

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 603 adopts the Behavioral Health Workforce Act (act). The bill contains legislative findings.  
The bill creates the Behavioral Health Education Center, administered by the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). The center is required to (1) provide funds for two additional medical residents in a Nebraska-based psychiatry program each year starting in 2010 until a total of eight additional psychiatry residents are added in 2013, and provide psychiatric residency training experiences that serve rural Nebraska and other underserved areas; (2) focus on training

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behavioral health professionals in telehealth techniques and other innovative means of care delivery; (3) analyze the geographic and demographic availability of Nebraska behavioral health professionals; (4) prioritize the need for additional professionals by type and location; (5) establish learning collaborative partnerships with other higher education institutions in the state, hospitals, law enforcement, community-based agencies, and consumers and their families in order to develop evidence-based, recovery-focused, interdisciplinary curriculum and training for behavioral health professionals delivering behavioral health services in community-based agencies, hospitals, and law enforcement; (6) develop two interdisciplinary behavioral health training sites each year until a total of six sites have been developed; and (7) prepare an annual report of its activities, beginning December 1, 2011.

The center would be funded by transfers from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund to the Behavioral Health Workforce Cash Fund.

The bill creates the Behavioral Health Workforce Cash Fund administered by UNMC. The fund includes revenue transferred from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund and revenue received from gifts, grants, bequests, donations, or other contributions from public or private sources.

The bill requires the following transfers from the Nebraska Medicaid Intergovernmental Trust Fund and the Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund to the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund (section 71-7611), offset by any unobligated balance in Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund when the transfer is made:

- (1) \$57,100,000 for FY 2009-10;
- (2) \$57,300,000 for FY 2010-11;
- (3) \$57,500,000 for FY 2011-12; and
- (4) \$57,700,000 for FY 2012-13.

The bill requires the following transfers from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund to the Behavioral Health Workforce Cash Fund:

- (1) \$1,400,000 in FY 2009-10;
- (2) \$1,600,000 in FY 2010-11;
- (3) \$1,800,000 in FY 2011-12; and
- (4) \$2,000,000 in FY 2012-13.

In FY 2013-14 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount transferred must be increased by three percent from the prior fiscal year. Amounts transferred annually to the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund beginning in FY 2013-04 must also be increased by the amount of the three percent increase in transfers to the Behavioral Health Workforce Cash Fund.

The bill has an operative date of July 1, 2009, and contains an emergency clause.

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#### **Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment (AM 351) makes technical changes to provisions relating to establishment of interdisciplinary training sites under the act. The amendment delays the development of such sites until 2011. The bill as introduced requires each site to provide "annual interdisciplinary training opportunities for a minimum of three behavioral health professionals during a two-month internship" (emphasis added). The committee amendment deletes the emphasized language.

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Tim Gay, Chairperson