

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1772

5 By: Representative L. Johnson
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND
9 NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP,
10 STIPEND, AND INCENTIVE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES.
12
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Subtitle

14 TO CREATE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND
15 NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING WORKFORCE
16 SCHOLARSHIP, STIPEND, AND INCENTIVE
17 PROGRAM.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 81, is amended to add an
24 additional subchapter to read as follows:

25 Subchapter 19 – Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing Workforce
26 Scholarship, Stipend, and Incentive Program
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28 6-81-1901. Creation.

29 There is created the Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing
30 Workforce Scholarship, Stipend, and Incentive Program to be administered by
31 the Arkansas Psychology Board in accordance with the provisions of this
32 subchapter.
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34 6-81-1902. Legislative findings and intent.

35 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

36 (1) Neuropsychological testing services are necessary services



1 for the citizens of the State of Arkansas in order to provide access to and
 2 inform a broad range of clinical services, psychoeducational services, and
 3 legal and quasi-legal decision-making skills, including without limitation
 4 child custody evaluations, forensic evaluations, and occupationally mandated
 5 psychological and neuropsychological evaluations; and

6 (2) There is a workforce shortage and a need for education and
 7 training to promote the workforce pipeline for these clinical services.

8 (b) It is the intent of this subchapter that the Arkansas Psychology
 9 Board shall approve scholarships, stipends, and incentives, such as loan
 10 repayment assistance, based on standards established by the General Assembly
 11 and the board for individuals pursuing career paths that address the
 12 workforce shortage for these clinical services.

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 14 6-81-1903. Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing Workforce
 15 Scholarship, Stipend, and Incentive Program – Funding.

16 (a) Cash funds for the Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing
 17 Workforce Scholarship, Stipend, and Incentive Program shall consist of:

- 18 (1) Funds appropriated for the program;
- 19 (2) Federal funds;
- 20 (3) Gifts;
- 21 (4) Grants;
- 22 (5) Bequests;
- 23 (6) Devises;
- 24 (7) Donations;
- 25 (8) Interest and other income accruing to or earned by the
 26 funds; and
- 27 (9) All moneys provided by law.

28 (b) The Arkansas Psychology Board:

- 29 (1) May invest the principal, interest, and income of the funds;
 30 and
- 31 (2) Shall use the funds for program scholarships, stipends, and
 32 incentives.

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 34 6-81-1904. Arkansas Psychology Board – Powers and duties.

35 (a) The Arkansas Psychology Board shall:

- 36 (1) Prescribe forms to be used for the Psychological and

Neuropsychological Testing Workforce Scholarship, Stipend, and Incentive Program;

(2) Monitor the submission of applications for scholarships, stipends, or incentives;

(3) Determine eligibility of applicants;

(4) Allow or reject applications for scholarships, stipends, or incentives;

(5) Contract for, increase, decrease, terminate, and otherwise monitor all scholarships, stipends, and incentives made under this subchapter; and

(6) Manage, operate, and control all funds and property appropriated or otherwise contributed for purposes of funding this program.

(b) The board may:

(1) Accept gifts, grants, bequests, devises, donations, and any federal funds available for the program, to be used together with funds appropriated for the program for making scholarships, stipends, and incentives under this subchapter; and

(2) Hire a qualified person or entity to administer the program.

6-81-1905. Eligibility and requirements for scholarships.

The Arkansas Psychology Board may award a scholarship, stipend, or incentive under the Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing Workforce Scholarship, Stipend, and Incentive Program available to an applicant who:

(1) Is a bona fide resident of Arkansas; and

(2) Is:

(A) Enrolled in good standing or has been accepted for admission to a program as a:

(i) Psychology student or trainee who is pursuing a bachelor's degree to obtain status as a technician according to the requirements of § 17-97-401 et seq. and the board; or

(ii) Doctoral psychology student or trainee who has been placed in an approved training site that is focused on psychological or neuropsychological testing under the supervision of a licensed psychologist; or

(B) A licensed psychologist who provides psychological or neuropsychological testing services.

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2 6-81-1906. Scholarship, stipend, and incentive – Amount.

3 (a) The Arkansas Psychology Board may award a scholarship to cover
4 tuition and the required coursework to an applicant who has been accepted for
5 admission or is enrolled in good standing in a program as a psychology
6 student or trainee who is pursuing a bachelor's degree to obtain status as a
7 technician according to the requirements of § 17-97-401 et seq. and the
8 board.

9 (b) The board may award a stipend to support required training
10 experience to an applicant who has been accepted for admission or is enrolled
11 in good standing in a program as a doctoral psychology student or trainee who
12 has been placed in an approved training site that is focused on psychological
13 or neuropsychological testing under the supervision of a licensed
14 psychologist.

15 (c) The board may provide loan forgiveness assistance to an applicant
16 who is a licensed psychologist who provides psychological or
17 neuropsychological testing services.

18 (d) The board may provide a financial incentive to an applicant who
19 agrees to work full time for at least two (2) years in Arkansas providing
20 psychological or neuropsychological testing services following his or her
21 educational training.

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23 6-81-1907. Renewal.

24 (a) Subject to the availability of funds, each scholarship, stipend,
25 or incentive awarded to an applicant under this subchapter shall be renewable
26 annually for the number of years required to complete a qualifying program
27 under this subchapter.

28 (b) Each scholarship, stipend, or incentive awarded to an applicant
29 under this subchapter subsequent to his or her initial receipt of a
30 scholarship, stipend, or incentive shall be made only upon application of the
31 recipient and upon a finding by the Arkansas Psychology Board that the
32 applicant meets all qualifications under this subchapter and board rules.

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34 6-81-1908. Rules.

35 The Arkansas Psychology Board may adopt rules consistent with this
36 subchapter to effectively and efficiently carry out the purposes of this

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