



HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	HF 534 (formerly HSB 188)	House Committee:	PASSED on March 4 (21-0)
Committee:	Human Resources	House Floor:	PASSED on April 29 (99-0)
Floor Manager:	Rep. Taylor	Senate Floor:	PASSED on April 8 (48-0)
Date:	June 17, 2015	Governor:	
Staff:	Carrie Malone (5-2063)		

Stipends for Mental Health Professional Shortage Area

- The Department of Public Health currently has a mental health professional shortage area stipend program. This program currently provides stipends to support psychiatric positions with an emphasis on securing and retaining medical directors at community mental health centers and hospital psychiatric units that are located in mental health professional shortage areas.
- “Mental health professional shortage areas” are geographic areas in this state that have been designated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services as having a shortage of mental health professionals.
- In 2015, none of the \$105,448 that was appropriated to this fund was awarded because of the strict criteria utilized to access the fund. Therefore, it was recommended that the criteria be expanded so that other entities could be awarded funds.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1

Currently, only community mental health centers that meet certain criteria can apply for the mental health professional shortage area stipends. This section would allow IDPH to give stipends to support psychiatric positions at nonprofit agencies that provide outpatient mental health services if at least 50% of the outpatient clients are covered under Medicaid. This change would allow places other than community mental health centers to apply for these funds.