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City: Bowling Green

KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Commonwealth Bill

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Referred to Committee: House 4

□ Defeated

☐ Defeated

| Sponsors: Austin Gabhart, Sydney Wheeler, Madison Ellis, Satya Moolani | Action on the Bill | |
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| School: Gatton Academy - WKU | House | Senate |
| · | ☐ Passed | ☐ Passed |

An Act relating to incentivizing Mental Health Care Professionals (MHPs) to Establish Practices in

Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Mental Health Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

Section 1: This bill devises a means to increase the number of Mental Health Care Practices in high need areas of Kentucky. In order to encourage the establishment of such practices, our bill creates a tax credit to offset the cost of starting a Mental Health Care Facility.

Section 2: A high need area is defined as an area where there are fewer than 1 MHPs per 20,000 people. In regards to this bill, a Mental Health Care Professional is defined as a psychiatrist, who can diagnose and prescribe medicine, or a psychologist, who counsels patients. Both are needed to run a practice that addresses all aspects of mental health.

Section 3: In order to qualify for this tax credit, a new practice must apply for the tax credit through the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure (KBML). Eligibility for the tax credit is based upon adherence to KBML requirements for valid licensing. A new practice is defined as a practice established on its own, or a practice in conjunction with an existing health care facility. To be approved, a new practice must accept Medicare, Medicaid, and all insurance providers; be established in a county deemed a high need area; and employ both a psychologist and psychiatrist, whose licenses are valid in Kentucky.

Section 4: Tax credits will be awarded annually for a time period of 7 years so long as the practice continues to meet the requirements set forth in Section 3. The tax credit in the amount of \$7000 will be awarded to a solitary practice, and a tax credit in the amount of \$5000 will be awarded to practices formed in conjunction with existing medical facilities. If a practice is approved for the credit, it will be distributed as a tax refund through the Kentucky Revenue Service.

Section 5: If passed, this law will go into effect on January 1, 2019. There are no fines as there no possible violations of this bill; however, if the MHP violates the terms of the contract described in the previous sections the practice will lose the possibility of tax credits in the future.