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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

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### AB 1918 (Petrie-Norris) - California Reproductive Health Service Corps

**Version:** June 14, 2022

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** August 1, 2022

**Policy Vote:** HEALTH 8 - 2

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Agnes Lee

**Bill Summary:** AB 1918 would establish the California Reproductive Health Service Corps in the Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) for the purposes of recruiting, training, and retaining a diverse workforce of reproductive health care professionals who will be part of reproductive health care teams to work in underserved areas.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

- Unknown General Fund costs, likely millions of dollars, to provide financial supports under the program.
- HCAI estimates costs of \$5.4 million (General Fund) to be expended in 2023-24 through 2027-28 to implement the program. This includes costs for staffing, contracts, and development and maintenance of an electronic application tool.

**Background:** Current law established HCAI to collect, analyze, and publish data about healthcare workforce and health professional training, identify areas of health workforce shortages, and provide scholarships, loan repayments, and grants to students, graduates, and institutions providing direct patient care in areas of unmet need.

HCAI administers various loan repayment programs that offer financial support to health professionals who agree to provide direct patient care in medically underserved areas, including for nurses, physicians, mental health providers, and allied health professionals. HCAI also administers scholarship programs to provide students with support to finance their education while accepted or enrolled in a health professions program. Students can apply and may be awarded in exchange for a period of direct patient service to a medically underserved community upon completion of their education.

**Proposed Law:** Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Establish the California Reproductive Health Service Corps (Corps) in HCAI and require the Corps to administer and oversee scholarships and stipends for new reproductive health students, loan repayment for graduates who have acquired debt from attending a reproductive health professional school in the past, and other types of direct financial support for scholars, in exchange for a three-year term of obligated service in California at a Corps-approved site.
- Define “scholar” as a person in the Corps who is a student who has been accepted in a school or a program that graduates reproductive health care professionals or

who is an existing reproductive health professional who desires more training and professional development in abortion care to provide this service.

- Sunset the bill on January 1, 2031.

**Staff Comments:** The 2022-23 Budget adopted in June includes the following:

- One-time General Fund of \$20 million for targeted recruitment and retention resources and training programs for health care providers that serve patients at a reproductive health provider location.
- One-time General Fund of \$20 million to expand the clinical infrastructure of health care providers who provide reproductive health services by increasing scholarship/loan repayment programs and training opportunities.

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