



General Assembly
February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 5810

LCO No. 2675

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Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:

(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN EMERGENCY ROOMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Social Services shall establish a two-year pilot behavioral health services program in up to five regions of the state that (1) have been designated by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration as health professional shortage areas, medically underserved areas or areas with medically underserved populations, and (2) have experienced hospital emergency department overcrowding issues due, in part, to delays in treating or placing adults with behavioral health needs. Participating hospital emergency departments shall work in collaboration with the Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Social Services to develop and implement innovative methods for improving emergency department outcomes for adults with behavioral health needs. Such methods shall include, but shall not be limited to:

(A) Entering into memoranda of understanding with providers of emergency mobile psychiatric services and other community-based behavioral health services for adults who are experiencing psychiatric or behavioral health crises;

(B) Collaborating with community-based behavioral health service providers and family members to assist in the development and implementation of crisis prevention plans;

(C) Developing and implementing hospital protocols for safe and appropriate expedited medical clearance of psychiatric patients who are eighteen years of age or older in the emergency department; and

(D) Developing and implementing hospital protocols that allow community-based behavioral health providers to provide on-site assistance to hospital emergency departments in evaluating, treating and, if necessary, placing adults in appropriate community-based behavioral health programs.

(b) The Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Social Services shall establish eligibility requirements for participation in the pilot program.

(c) The pilot program shall commence on or before October 1, 2009, and shall terminate not later than June 30, 2011.

(d) The Commissioners of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Social Services shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and public health not later than January 1, 2012, concerning the results of such pilot program.

Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of five hundred thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the purpose of establishing and operating the pilot program authorized by section 1 of this act.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2008</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2008</i> | New section |

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Social Services to establish a two-year behavioral health services pilot program in up to five regions of the state that will develop and implement innovative methods for improving emergency department outcomes for adults with behavioral health needs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]