
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has a gap
2 in services for homeless individuals with severe mental illness
3 or severe co-occurring mental illness and substance use
4 disorders, as these individuals often cycle between
5 homelessness, emergency room treatment, incarceration, and
6 hospitalization. Individuals with severe mental illness or
7 severe co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders
8 typically become chronically homeless and further burden the
9 health care system through excessive use of expensive emergency
10 department, inpatient treatment, and crisis services. Due to
11 their mental illness, these individuals routinely reject offered
12 services and remain on the street, putting themselves at risk of
13 further injury and creating a significant burden on the
14 communities where they reside.

15 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
16 human services to establish a task force to determine specific
17 implementation requirements necessary to establish a pilot



1 program to provide shelter and mental health treatment for
2 homeless individuals with severe mental illness or severe co-
3 occurring mental illness and substance use disorders who are
4 subject to court-ordered guardianship.

5 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
6 of human services the task force on chronically homeless
7 individuals with severe mental illness or substance use
8 disorders. The task force shall determine specific
9 implementation requirements necessary to establish a pilot
10 program intended to procure the services of a service provider
11 to operate a shelter and provide mental health treatment for
12 homeless individuals with severe mental illness or severe co-
13 occurring mental illness and substance use disorders who are
14 subject to court-ordered guardianship.

15 (b) The task force shall consider specific implementation
16 concerns and any procedural, legal, or other requirements
17 necessary for a pilot project, including but not limited to:

18 (1) Developing specific recommendations to address the
19 population targeted by the pilot program, including
20 specialized levels of treatment, coordination of care,



- 1 and compliance with all regulatory and licensing
2 requirements;
- 3 (2) Developing procedures to address the safety of clients
4 and staff involved with the pilot program; and
- 5 (3) Ensuring that all legal requirements are met when
6 recommending assisted community treatment for an
7 individual under court-ordered guardianship, when the
8 individual will not voluntarily participate in
9 treatment.
- 10 (c) The following individuals shall serve as members of
11 the task force:
- 12 (1) The chair of the senate committee on human services,
13 or a member designated by the president of the senate;
- 14 (2) The chair of the house committee on human services and
15 homelessness, or a member designated by the speaker of
16 the house of representatives;
- 17 (3) The governor's coordinator on homelessness;
- 18 (4) The director of human services, or the director's
19 designee;
- 20 (5) A representative from the med-QUEST division of the
21 department of human services;



- 1 (6) A representative from the homeless programs office of
- 2 the department of human services;
- 3 (7) The director of health, or the director's designee;
- 4 (8) A representative from the adult mental health division
- 5 of the department of health;
- 6 (9) A representative from office of health care assurance
- 7 of the department of health;
- 8 (10) A representative from the department of the attorney
- 9 general, to be designated by the attorney general;
- 10 (11) A representative from the Hawaii state judiciary; and
- 11 (12) A representative from a mental health advocacy group.

12 The department of human services may recommend additional
 13 members with appropriate specialized expertise to the task
 14 force.

15 (d) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
 16 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no
 17 later than thirty days prior to the convening of the regular
 18 session of 2020.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and



1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
2 year 2020-2021 for the purposes of this Act.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

6



Report Title:

Homelessness; Severe Mental Illness; Homeless; Department of Human Services; Task Force; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of human services to establish a task force to determine specific implementation requirements necessary to establish a pilot program to provide shelter and mental health treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental illness or severe co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders who are subject to court-ordered guardianship. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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