
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. Act 263, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, is
3 amended by amending section 1 to read as follows:

4 "SECTION 1. (a) There is established within the
5 department of health a working group to [~~evaluate current~~
6 ~~behavioral health care and related systems and identify steps~~
7 ~~that may be taken to promote effective integration to more~~
8 ~~effectively respond to and coordinate care for persons~~
9 ~~experiencing substance abuse, mental health conditions, and~~
10 ~~homelessness.~~] identify gaps in services, coordinate funding
11 sources, and establish and identify outcome measures for
12 behavioral health, substance abuse, and homelessness.

13 (b) The working group shall consist of the following
14 members:

15 (1) The director of health, or the director's designee,
16 who shall serve as chair;



- 1 (2) One representative from the behavioral health services
2 administration of the department of health;
- 3 (3) One representative of the department of public safety;
- 4 (4) One representative from the med-QUEST division of the
5 department of human services;
- 6 (5) One representative of the judiciary;
- 7 (6) One representative from the insurance division of the
8 department of commerce and consumer affairs;
- 9 (7) [~~One or more representatives of the Hawaii Opioid~~
10 ~~Initiative executive steering committee;~~] The
11 governor's coordinator on homelessness, or the
12 coordinator's designee;
- 13 (8) One representative from each entity operating a health
14 plan in the State, who the director of health shall
15 invite to participate on the working group;
- 16 (9) One or more members of the Hawaii Substance Abuse
17 Coalition, who the director of health shall invite to
18 participate on the working group;
- 19 (10) One representative of the Hawaii interagency council
20 on homelessness;



- 1 (11) One representative from the office of Hawaiian
- 2 affairs;
- 3 (12) One representative from the University of Hawaii John
- 4 A. Burns school of medicine department of psychiatry
- 5 who is affiliated with the American Society of
- 6 Addiction Medicine;
- 7 [~~11~~] (13) One clinical social worker licensed under
- 8 chapter 467E, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- 9 [~~12~~] (14) Others as recommended by the working group.
- 10 (c) The working group shall evaluate:
- 11 (1) Inventory of funding streams and their metrics;
- 12 (2) Currently existing barriers to treatment access;
- 13 (3) Policies and practices that perpetuate or
- 14 substantially contribute to access barriers;
- 15 (4) Practices that would improve care coordination and
- 16 increase access to care;
- 17 (5) Policies or legislative actions that are recommended
- 18 to effectuate coordinated entry and coordinated
- 19 systems of behavioral health care; and



1 (6) Defined roles and responsibilities recommended of
2 state, county, and community entities.

3 (d) Members of the working group shall serve without
4 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses
5 necessary for the performance of their duties, including travel
6 expenses. No member of the working group shall be subject to
7 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of the
8 member's participation in the working group.

9 (e) Two or more members of the working group, but less
10 than the number of members [~~which~~] that would constitute a
11 quorum for the working group, may discuss between themselves
12 matters relating to official business of the working group to
13 enable them to faithfully perform their duties to the working
14 group and the organizations they represent, as long as no
15 commitment to vote is made or sought. Such discussions shall be
16 a permitted interaction under section 92-2.5, Hawaii Revised
17 Statutes.

18 (f) The working group shall submit a report of its
19 findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of the regular session of [~~2020-~~] 2022.

3 (g) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30,
4 [~~2021-~~] 2023."

5 PART II

6 SECTION 2. This part is recommended by the governor for
7 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of
8 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,780,880 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
12 payroll and other current expenses to address the budget
13 shortfall for the state comprehensive emergency medical system.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 health for the purposes of this part.

16 PART III

17 SECTION 4. The department of commerce and consumer affairs
18 shall create an additional licensure category for emergency
19 medical technicians who have received certification from the
20 National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians at a higher



1 level of practice than emergency medical responders but who do
2 not provide emergency ambulance services.

3 PART IV

4 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Department of Health; Working Group; Behavioral Health Care;
Emergency Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a working group within the department of health to identify gaps in services; coordinate funding sources; and establish and identify outcome measures for behavioral health, substance abuse, and homelessness. Makes an emergency appropriation to provide funds for the state comprehensive emergency medical system for expenses related to collective bargaining and other current expenses. Requires the department of commerce and consumer affairs to create a licensure category for emergency medical technicians who have received certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians at a higher level of practice than emergency medical responders but who do not provide emergency ambulance services. (Proposed SD2)

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