



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 622

LCO No. 2983

02983 _____ PH_

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CARE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) (a) On or before October 1,
2 2007, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in
3 consultation with the Community Mental Health Strategy Board,
4 established under section 17a-485b of the general statutes, shall
5 establish and implement (1) two or more pilot programs for general
6 pediatric, family medicine and geriatric health care professionals to
7 improve their ability to identify, diagnose, refer and treat patients with
8 mental illness, and (2) two pilot programs for law enforcement
9 personnel to participate in peer-counseling, one of which shall be in
10 the Division of the State Police and one of which shall be in a
11 municipal police department.

12 (b) On or before January 1, 2009, the Commissioner of Mental
13 Health and Addiction Services shall evaluate the pilot programs
14 established under subsection (a) of this section and shall submit a
15 report of the commissioner's findings and recommendations to the
16 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance

17 of matters relating to public health, in accordance with the provisions
18 of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

19 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) (a) On or before October 1, 2006,
20 the Department of Social Services, in consultation with the Department
21 of Mental Health and Addiction Services, shall seek a waiver from
22 federal law to establish and implement a Medicaid-financed home and
23 community-based program to provide community-based services and,
24 if necessary, housing assistance, to adults with severe and persistent
25 psychiatric disabilities being discharged or diverted from nursing
26 home residential care.

27 (b) On or before April 1, 2007, the Department of Social Services, in
28 consultation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
29 Services, shall establish and implement a program, in accordance with
30 subsection (a) of this section and the feasibility plan developed
31 pursuant to section 85 of public act 05-280, to provide community-
32 based services and, if necessary, housing assistance, to adults with
33 severe and persistent psychiatric disabilities being discharged or
34 diverted from nursing home residential care. Such community-based
35 services and housing assistance shall be provided to not less than (1)
36 one hundred fifty eligible adults for the fiscal year ending June 30,
37 2007, (2) four hundred fifty eligible adults for the fiscal year ending
38 June 30, 2008, and (3) seven hundred fifty eligible adults for the fiscal
39 year ending June 30, 2009.

40 (c) On or before January 1, 2009, the Commissioner of Social
41 Services shall evaluate the pilot program established under this section
42 and shall submit a report of the commissioner's findings and
43 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General
44 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health, in
45 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

46 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On or before July 1, 2006, the
47 Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the
48 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the

49 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, shall implement
50 enhanced care clinics for adults, including hospital-based clinics, in
51 accordance with the results of the feasibility study authorized by
52 section 90 of public act 05-280, and shall establish a schedule of
53 Medicaid and State-Administered General Assistance reimbursement
54 for such clinics that is comparable to the provider rates established for
55 the Behavioral Health Partnership pursuant to section 17a-22o of the
56 2006 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this act.

57 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) Any provision of section 17b-263a of the
58 general statutes or section 85 of public act 05-280 that requires mental
59 health care services to be funded under a federal Medicaid option shall
60 require that any increase in state payments to private providers also
61 apply to services funded under such Medicaid rehabilitation option.

62 Sec. 5. Section 17a-22o of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes
63 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
64 *1, 2006*):

65 (a) The Departments of Children and Families and Social Services
66 may establish provider specific inpatient, partial hospitalization,
67 intensive outpatient and other intensive service rates. Within available
68 appropriations, the initial rates shall not be less than each provider's
69 blend of rates from the HUSKY Plans in effect on July 1, 2005, unless
70 the date of implementation of the Behavioral Health Partnership is
71 later than January 1, 2006. If such implementation date is later than
72 January 1, 2006, such initial rates, within available appropriations,
73 shall not be less than each provider's blend of rates in effect sixty days
74 prior to the implementation date of the Behavioral Health Partnership.
75 Within available appropriations, the departments may provide grant
76 payments, where necessary, to address provider financial impacts. The
77 departments may establish uniform outpatient rates allowing a
78 differential for child and adult services. In no event shall such rate
79 increases exceed rates paid through Medicare for such services. The
80 Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council shall review any

81 such rate methodology as provided for in subsection (b) of this section.
82 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 17b-239, as amended, and
83 17b-241, rates for behavioral health services shall be established in
84 accordance with this section.

85 (b) All proposals for initial rates, reductions to existing rates and
86 changes in rate methodology within the Behavioral Health Partnership
87 shall be submitted to the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight
88 Council for review. If the council does not recommend acceptance, it
89 may forward its recommendation to the joint standing committees of
90 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
91 health, human services and appropriations and the budgets of state
92 agencies. The committees shall hold a joint public hearing on the
93 subject of the proposed rates, to receive the partnership's rationale for
94 making such a rate change. Not later than ninety days after submission
95 by the departments, the committees of cognizance shall make
96 recommendations to the departments regarding the proposed rates.
97 The departments shall make every effort to incorporate
98 recommendations of both the council and the committees of
99 cognizance when setting rates.

100 (c) The departments shall adjust all rates established under this
101 section, annually, by an amount that is at least equal to the average
102 increase granted by the Department of Social Services in the current
103 fiscal year to managed care organizations that provide services under
104 the HUSKY plan.

105 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) On or before January 1, 2007, the
106 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in
107 consultation with the Commissioner of Correction, the executive
108 director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial
109 Department and the Community Mental Health Strategy Board,
110 established under section 17a-485b of the general statutes, shall
111 establish not less than two additional centers for day reporting
112 programs for persons with serious psychiatric disabilities, otherwise

113 deemed eligible for diversion or release, from correctional facilities to
114 the community with appropriate housing and treatment services.

115 Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) (a) The sum of five hundred thousand
116 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health and
117 Addiction Services, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending
118 June 30, 2007, for purposes of establishing and implementing the pilot
119 programs authorized by subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 1 of
120 this act.

121 (b) The sum of five hundred thousand dollars is appropriated to the
122 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, from the
123 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, for purposes of
124 establishing and implementing the pilot programs authorized by
125 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 1 of this act.

126 Sec. 8. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of one hundred thousand
127 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Social Services, from the
128 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, for the purpose
129 of providing supportive housing assistance to participants in the
130 program authorized by section 2 of this act.

131 Sec. 9. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of one million dollars is
132 appropriated to the Department of Children and Families, from the
133 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, for the Early
134 Childhood Consultation Program for purposes of addressing the
135 mental health needs of children up to five years of age by making
136 consultations with mental health professionals available to early care
137 and education providers to assist in identification, intervention and
138 referral of young children with early signs of mental health problems.

139 Sec. 10. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of nine hundred twenty-one
140 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health
141 and Addiction Services, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year
142 ending June 30, 2007, for purposes of establishing two additional
143 centers for day reporting programs pursuant to section 6 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	17a-22o
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To adopt and fund the recommendations of the Lieutenant Governor's Mental Health Cabinet.

[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.]