



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

**Committee Bill No. 6921**

LCO No. 5149

\*05149HB06921PH\_\*

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 17a-22j of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2007*):

4 (c) All appointments to the council shall be made no later than July  
5 1, 2005, except that the chairpersons of the council may appoint  
6 additional consumers to the council as nonvoting ex-officio members.  
7 Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Consumers  
8 appointed to the council pursuant to subdivision (6) of subsection (b)  
9 of this section shall receive no compensation for their services but shall  
10 be reimbursed for any necessary expenses incurred in the performance  
11 of their duties.

12 Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 17a-22j of the general statutes is  
13 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
14 *passage*):

15 (g) On or before [March 1, 2006] March 1, 2007, November 1, 2008,

16 and annually thereafter on or before November first, the council shall  
17 submit a report to the Governor and, in accordance with section 11-4a,  
18 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
19 cognizance of matters relating to human services, public health and  
20 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, on the council's  
21 activities and progress.

22 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Departments of  
23 Children and Families and Social Services shall establish a two-year  
24 pilot behavioral health services program in up to five regions of the  
25 state that (1) have been designated by the federal Health Resources  
26 and Services Administration as health professional shortage areas,  
27 medically underserved areas or areas with medically underserved  
28 populations, and (2) have experienced hospital emergency department  
29 overcrowding issues due, in part, to delays in treating or placing  
30 children with behavioral health needs. Participating hospital  
31 emergency departments shall work in collaboration with the  
32 Behavioral Health Partnership to develop and implement innovative  
33 methods for improving emergency department outcomes for children  
34 with behavioral health needs. Such methods shall include, but shall not  
35 be limited to:

36 (A) Entering into memorandums of understanding with providers  
37 of emergency mobile psychiatric services and other community-based  
38 behavioral health services for children who are experiencing  
39 psychiatric or behavioral health crises;

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

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

46 (D) Developing and implementing hospital protocols that allow

47 community-based behavioral health providers to provide on-site  
48 assistance to hospital emergency departments in evaluating, treating  
49 and, if necessary, placing children in appropriate community-based  
50 behavioral health programs.

51 (b) The Departments of Social Services and Children and Families,  
52 in consultation with the Behavioral Health Partnership, shall establish  
53 eligibility requirements for participation in the pilot program.

54 (c) The pilot program shall commence on or before October 1, 2008,  
55 and shall terminate not later than October 1, 2010.

56 (d) The Commissioners of Social Services and Children and Families  
57 shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to  
58 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
59 cognizance of matters relating to social services and public health not  
60 later than January 1, 2011, concerning the results of such pilot  
61 program.

62 Sec. 4. (Effective July 1, 2007) The sum of five hundred thousand  
63 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Children and Families,  
64 from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for the  
65 purpose of establishing and operating the pilot program authorized by  
66 section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	17a-22j(c)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	17a-22j(g)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To provide for reimbursement of Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council members for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, to adjust the deadline for annual reports by the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council and to

establish a behavioral health services pilot program to improve hospital department outcomes for children 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.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. SAYERS, 60th Dist.

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