



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6921**

January Session, 2007

\*           HB06921PH\_APP032607           \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH.**

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

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2       repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  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

4       (g) On or before March 1, [2006] 2007, November 1, 2008, and  
5       annually thereafter on or before November first, the council shall  
6       submit a report to the Governor and, in accordance with section 11-4a,  
7       to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
8       cognizance of matters relating to human services, public health and  
9       appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, on the council's  
10      activities and progress.

11      Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Departments of  
12      Children and Families and Social Services shall establish a two-year  
13      pilot behavioral health services program in up to five regions of the  
14      state that (1) have been designated by the federal Health Resources  
15      and Services Administration as health professional shortage areas,  
16      medically underserved areas or areas with medically underserved  
17      populations, and (2) have experienced hospital emergency department  
18      overcrowding issues due, in part, to delays in treating or placing  
19      children with behavioral health needs. Participating hospital  
20      emergency departments shall work in collaboration with the

21 Behavioral Health Partnership to develop and implement innovative  
22 methods for improving emergency department outcomes for children  
23 with behavioral health needs. Such methods shall include, but shall not  
24 be limited to:

25 (A) Entering into memorandums of understanding with providers  
26 of emergency mobile psychiatric services and other community-based  
27 behavioral health services for children who are experiencing  
28 psychiatric or behavioral health crises;

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

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

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

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

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

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

51       Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of five hundred thousand  
52 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Children and Families,  
53 from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for the  
54 purpose of establishing and operating the pilot program authorized by  
55 section 2 of this act.

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

**PH**

*Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

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