



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 5810**

LCO No. 2675

\*        HB05810PH\_APP031708        \*

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN EMERGENCY ROOMS.**

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

1       Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Departments of Mental  
2       Health and Addiction Services and Social Services shall establish a  
3       two-year pilot behavioral health services program in up to five regions  
4       of the state that (1) have been designated by the federal Health  
5       Resources and Services Administration as health professional shortage  
6       areas, medically underserved areas or areas with medically  
7       underserved populations, and (2) have experienced hospital  
8       emergency department overcrowding issues due, in part, to delays in  
9       treating or placing adults with behavioral health needs. Participating  
10      hospital emergency departments shall work in collaboration with the  
11      Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Social  
12      Services to develop and implement innovative methods for improving  
13      emergency department outcomes for adults with behavioral health  
14      needs. Such methods shall include, but shall not be limited to:

15      (A) Entering into memoranda of understanding with providers of  
16      emergency mobile psychiatric services and other community-based

17 behavioral health services for adults who are experiencing psychiatric  
18 or behavioral health crises;

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

22 (C) Developing and implementing hospital protocols for safe and  
23 appropriate expedited medical clearance of psychiatric patients who  
24 are eighteen years of age or older in the emergency department; and

25 (D) Developing and implementing hospital protocols that allow  
26 community-based behavioral health providers to provide on-site  
27 assistance to hospital emergency departments in evaluating, treating  
28 and, if necessary, placing adults in appropriate community-based  
29 behavioral health programs.

30 (b) The Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and  
31 Social Services shall establish eligibility requirements for participation  
32 in the pilot program.

33 (c) The pilot program shall commence on or before October 1, 2009,  
34 and shall terminate not later than June 30, 2011.

35 (d) The Commissioners of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
36 and Social Services shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the  
37 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General  
38 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and  
39 public health not later than January 1, 2012, concerning the results of  
40 such pilot program.

41 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of five hundred thousand  
42 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health and  
43 Addiction Services, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending  
44 June 30, 2009, for the purpose of establishing and operating the pilot  
45 program authorized by section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

**PH**

*Joint Favorable C/R*

APP