OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 5866

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF NECESSARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR DRUG-DEPENDENT PERSONS.

SUMMARY

This bill allocates money remaining in the drug assets forfeiture revolving account (see BACKGROUND) at the end of a fiscal year to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). DMHAS must use the money to provide inpatient treatment services to drug-dependent individuals at facilities it contracts with or operates.

The bill also requires the probate court administrator, within available appropriations, to develop and distribute material that informs the public of probate court procedures that may help secure medical treatment for a drug-dependent person. The material must include, at a minimum, the procedures for (1) the involuntary commitment of a person who is a danger to himself or herself or others and (2) conservatorship of a person who is unable to manage his or her affairs or care for himself or herself. The administrator must make the material available at each probate court in the state and on his office’s website.

Lastly, the bill requires the probate court administrator to review existing probate court procedures that help secure medical treatment for drug-dependent individuals. He must report to the Judiciary and Public Health committees by February 1, 2020, on enhancements that could be made to better help drug-dependent individuals, and their family and friends, secure necessary medical treatment for a drug-dependent person.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019, except the provision requiring the probate court administrator to review existing procedures and report
to legislative committees is effective upon passage.

BACKGROUND

Drug Assets Forfeiture Revolving Account

By law, money in the drug assets forfeiture revolving account is used for substance abuse treatment and education programs and drug law enforcement. Funds come from the sale of forfeited property related to the sale of illegal drugs, among other sources. The account funds are distributed according to the following formula:

1. 20% to DMHAS for substance abuse treatment and education programs, including tobacco prevention programs;

2. 70% to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and local police departments (15% of this amount must be used for drug education and 85% to enforce drug laws); and

3. 10% to the Division of Criminal Justice for prosecuting people charged with drug crimes.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 34 Nay 6 (04/09/2019)