

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 5145**

LCO No. 6505

AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ACTION ORGANIZATIONS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Mental Health
2 and Addiction Services shall study the efficacy of regional behavioral
3 health action organizations established pursuant to section 2 of this act.
4 Such study shall include an evaluation of the services provided by
5 such organizations and recommendations concerning such services.
6 Not later than January 1, 2020, the Commissioner of Mental Health and
7 Addiction Services shall report, in accordance with the provisions of
8 section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding the findings of such
9 study to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
10 cognizance of matters relating to public health.

11 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There are established within
12 the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services five regional
13 behavioral health action organizations, one for each mental health
14 region in the state established pursuant to section 17a-478 of the
15 general statutes. Each regional behavioral health action organization
16 shall work across the continuum of behavioral health care as strategic
17 community partners for the planning, education and advocacy for
18 behavioral health needs and services within the region.

19 (b) The duties of each regional behavioral health action
20 organization, within its mental health region, shall include, but need
21 not be limited to: (1) Assess the behavioral health needs of children,
22 adolescents and adults across the regions, (2) develop strategic plans to

23 include priority recommendations for substance abuse prevention,
24 treatment and recovery services, (3) administer grants to municipalities
25 to stimulate the development and implementation of substance abuse
26 prevention activities, (4) build the capacity of local communities to
27 understand and address problem gambling, (5) raise awareness and
28 provide advocacy to the general public related to mental health
29 promotion and substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery,
30 (6) leverage funds to support substance abuse prevention, treatment
31 and recovery activities, (7) serve on local, regional and state-wide
32 advisory and planning bodies, and (8) within available appropriations,
33 provide training in the administration of an opioid antagonist, as
34 defined in section 17a-714a of the general statutes, and distribute
35 supplies of opioid antagonists to communities.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section