
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5586

AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE CRISIS INITIATIVE PILOT PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND THE EMERGENCY INTERVENTION BY A POLICE OFFICER WHEN A PERSON SUFFERS AN OPIOID OVERDOSE.

SUMMARY

This bill expands police officers' authority to take into custody certain people who need immediate medical care and treatment. Under current law, any person who an officer reasonably believes has psychiatric disabilities and is dangerous to themselves or others or is gravely disabled may be taken to a general hospital for emergency examination. Under the bill, officers may do the same for anyone they reasonably believe is suffering from an apparent narcotics overdose.

As with existing law, an officer must complete and give the hospital a written request for emergency examination. The person taken into custody must be examined within 24 hours and released within 72 hours unless detained and committed under a physician's emergency certificate.

The bill specifies that the custody undertaken by officers in both of the above circumstances is "protective custody." (The bill does not define "protective custody.")

Separately, the bill requires the State Police in conjunction with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to expand the Connection to Recovery through Intervention, Support, and Initiating Services Initiative pilot program (i.e., CRISIS Initiative) throughout the state by January 1, 2022. This expanded program must include at least the components of the pilot program that require state police officer training, coordination between state police officers and mental health professionals, and referrals to mental health services facilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021, except the CRISIS Initiative expansion is effective upon passage.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/24/2021)