
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has a gap
2 in services for homeless individuals with severe mental illness,
3 as these individuals often cycle between homelessness, emergency
4 room treatment, incarceration, and hospitalization. Individuals
5 with severe mental illness typically become chronically homeless
6 and further burden the health care system through excessive use
7 of expensive emergency department, inpatient treatment, and
8 crisis services. Due to their mental illness, these individuals
9 routinely reject offered services and remain on the street,
10 putting themselves at risk of further injury and creating a
11 significant burden on the communities where they reside.

12 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
13 human services, in consultation with the department of health,
14 to establish a pilot project to provide housing and mental
15 health treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental
16 illness who are subject to an assisted community treatment order
17 or court ordered guardianship.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services, in
2 consultation with the department of health, shall establish a
3 pilot project to operate a facility to provide shelter and
4 mental health treatment for homeless individuals with severe
5 mental illness who are subject to an assisted community
6 treatment order or court ordered guardianship, with the goal of
7 enabling these individuals to find permanent housing through
8 housing first programs; provided that prior to the establishment
9 of the pilot project, adult protective services shall seek a
10 court ordered guardianship for homeless individuals with severe
11 mental illness and consult with the family court and other
12 appropriate agencies about homeless individuals with severe
13 mental illness who were subjected to an assisted community
14 treatment order.

15 (b) No more than ten homeless individuals with severe
16 mental illness may receive shelter and mental health treatment
17 at the facility at any given time; provided that a homeless
18 individual with severe mental illness shall provide appropriate
19 identification documentation, including but not limited to a
20 social security card, driver's license, or state identification



1 card, to be eligible for shelter and mental health treatment at
2 the facility.

3 (c) The department of human services shall use a suitable
4 unused state facility to provide shelter and mental health
5 treatment services; provided that the department shall make any
6 necessary changes to the facility to serve individuals with
7 severe mental illness.

8 (d) The pilot project shall end on June 30, . The
9 department of human services, in consultation with the
10 governor's coordinator on homelessness, shall submit a report
11 detailing findings and recommendations regarding the pilot
12 project, including findings regarding the pilot project's
13 contribution to successfully transitioning homeless individuals
14 with severe mental illness to permanent housing, challenges or
15 failures of the pilot project, and any proposed legislation, to
16 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
17 of the regular session of .

18 (e) The department of human services shall enter a
19 memorandum of understanding with the department of health and
20 any appropriate agencies assisting the department of human
21 services in providing shelter and mental health treatment to



1 homeless individuals with severe mental illness subject to an
2 assisted community treatment order or court ordered
3 guardianship.

4 (f) The department of human services may adopt rules
5 pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to effectuate
6 this Act.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to
10 establish a pilot project to operate a shelter, including the
11 hiring of a social worker and social service assistant,
12 administrative expenses, and any necessary renovations to the
13 facility, to provide shelter and mental health treatment for
14 homeless individuals with severe mental illness pursuant to this
15 Act; provided that the department of human services may procure
16 mental health treatment services pursuant to chapter 103F,
17 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 human services for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000;
2 provided that section 2 shall take effect upon the Department of
3 the Attorney General's approval.



Report Title:

Individuals with Severe Mental Illness; Homeless; Facility; Appropriation; Department of Human Services; Department of Health; Assisted Community Treatment Order; Court Ordered Guardianship

Description:

Requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Health, to establish a pilot project to operate a facility to provide shelter and mental health treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental illness who are subject to an assisted community treatment order or court ordered guardianship. Requires adult protective services to request a court ordered guardianship for homeless individuals with severe mental illness and consult with the family court and other appropriate agencies on homeless individuals with severe mental illness who were subjected to an assisted community treatment order. Requires homeless individuals with severe mental illness to provide identification documentation prior to receiving shelter and mental health treatment. Appropriates funds. Requires approval from Department of the Attorney General. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

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