
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESS SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many homeless
2 persons who have been hospitalized need supportive services and
3 follow-up care. Persons lacking access to a clean and safe
4 place in which to recover may require extended inpatient stays
5 and repeated hospitalizations. Hawaii Health Information
6 Corporation estimates that homeless persons in the State are
7 hospitalized more than ten thousand times per year, at an annual
8 cost of approximately \$100,000,000. The legislature recognizes
9 that the costs of these hospitalizations are often absorbed by
10 treating medical facilities, privately insured patients, and
11 taxpayers.

12 The legislature further finds that some extended hospital
13 stays and repeated hospitalizations could be avoided by
14 providing recently discharged homeless persons with a
15 coordinated program of care, including medical care, housing
16 assistance, and supportive services.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to improve the
2 quality of life and standard of care for homeless persons in the
3 State by establishing a medical respite pilot program.

4 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
5 of human services a three-year medical respite pilot program to
6 provide outpatient health care and supportive services to
7 homeless persons recently discharged from the hospital. The
8 pilot program shall be overseen by the governor's coordinator on
9 homelessness. The governor's coordinator on homelessness may
10 enter into contracts for the provision of these services in
11 compliance with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
12 Services' guidance for a waiver under section 1115 of the Social
13 Security Act, also known as a medicaid section 1115 waiver, to
14 allow the cost of the services to be reimbursed by existing
15 medicaid benefits.

16 (b) The department shall administer the pilot program in
17 each county having a population of more than six hundred
18 thousand.

19 (c) The pilot program shall be based at a federally
20 qualified health center that shall coordinate with other
21 hospitals, emergency rooms, health plans, and social service



1 providers to develop and implement individualized care plans for
2 each referred person.

3 (d) Services provided or coordinated by the federally
4 qualified health center shall include:

5 (1) Assistance in securing clean and safe housing for the
6 duration of the person's post-discharge recovery;

7 (2) Access to regular and timely medical care, including:

8 (A) Preventative and primary care services;

9 (B) Medication refills;

10 (C) Treatment for allergic reactions;

11 (D) Treatment for asthma and respiratory conditions;

12 (E) Treatment for burns;

13 (F) Treatment for muscle strains;

14 (G) Treatment for colds, flu, and other common
15 illnesses;

16 (H) Testing for tuberculosis;

17 (I) Vaccinations;

18 (J) Minor procedures, including sutures for small
19 wounds; and

20 (K) Basic behavioral health services;

21 (3) Services to address basic non-medical needs;



1 (4) Referrals to community resources to address social
2 determinants of health; and

3 (5) Assistance in transitioning to permanent housing.

4 (e) The federally qualified health center shall work with
5 designated county departments to engage in community outreach
6 efforts to educate homeless persons on the services offered by
7 the medical respite pilot program.

8 (f) The federally qualified health center shall also work
9 with designated county departments to coordinate and provide
10 medical and other care services for non-hospitalized homeless
11 persons who are being moved by police out of unauthorized
12 spaces.

13 (g) The pilot program shall terminate after three years of
14 operation.

15 (h) The department shall submit a report of its findings
16 and recommendations, including a recommendation on whether the
17 pilot program should be extended or made permanent and any
18 proposed enabling legislation, to the legislature no later than
19 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
20 2025.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
4 the medical respite pilot program established by section 2 of
5 this Act.

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

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060.



Report Title:

Department of Human Services; Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness; Medical Respite Pilot Program; Homeless Persons; Appropriation; Report

Description:

Establishes within the Department of Human Services a three-year Medical Respite Pilot Program overseen by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to provide outpatient health care and supportive services to homeless persons recently discharged from the hospital and non-hospitalized homeless persons who are being moved out of unauthorized spaces by the police. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2060. (SD1)

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