

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6510

AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING
CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY

Title: ROOMS.

Vote Date: 3/11/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/2/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:

In order to allow children with psychiatric disabilities and behavioral health disorders to better understand and have access to the resources the state offers them, this bill would require the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council to develop a single document with all resources described in it as well as for hospital emergency departments to provide this document to the guardians of such children upon discharge from such departments.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

There is no response from administration/agency for this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Daniel Freess, M.D., Legislative Chair Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians:

Daniel Freess testified in support of this bill but has some comments to it.

- He explains how even though the reasons for this bill are noble, that the discharge information (providers, resources, and follow up information) are already provided to all patients that show up in an Emergency room, though this bill would standardize this process, not much would change.

- He also points out that even though people would have access to resources' phone numbers, having access does not mean they would be able to utilize it, therefore the point of this "discharge packet" would be none. Even though he is not against this bill he hopes the legislature will focus on working with relevant stakeholders to find ways to expand resources, develop new ones and fund available options to the fullest.

Connecticut Hospital Association: The association testified in support of the bill, though has concerns about some of its aspects.

- Data is brought up regarding the impact in the amount of people who utilize many different hospital services and the organization believes that "making this information available to members of the public in a variety of ways will help parents and guardians connect their children with necessary evaluation and treatment before a visit to an emergency department becomes necessary."

The association believes that there is no need to impose a mandate on hospitals regarding distribution of information considering each hospital already does it anyways. However, when imposing this new obligation much bureaucracy must then take place and that just complicates things.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Patricia Rehmer, President of Hartford HealthCare Behavioral Health Network: Patricia Rehmer testified against this bill.

- She does believe that this bill has a positive goal though she suggests that if this bill is to proceed, that "the responsibility of developing and maintaining this list of services is more appropriately placed on the state agencies who run the BHP or who license behavioral health providers and programs in our state."
- She also explains how Massachusetts is following a similar path by being in "in the midst of executing a plan to add more than 200 psychiatric beds starting this spring".

Reported by: Gabriela Dos Santos

Date: March 18th 2021