



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Proposed Bill No. 162

LCO No. 1597



* 0 1 5 9 7 *

Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
SEN. ANWAR, 3rd Dist.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EARLY CHILDHOOD PSYCHOSIS TASK FORCE TO STUDY BARRIERS TO ADEQUATE AND EARLY TREATMENT OF PSYCHOSIS IN CHILDREN.

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

- 1 To establish an early childhood psychosis task force to evaluate (1)
- 2 the establishment, in collaboration with the Department of Mental
- 3 Health and Addiction Services, of clinics staffed by mental health care
- 4 providers in various fields who provide comprehensive care for
- 5 children who are in the early stages of a psychotic illness to prevent
- 6 symptoms from becoming disabling, (2) early evaluation of children
- 7 with symptoms of a psychotic illness and management of such
- 8 symptoms, including, but not limited to, initiating treatments and
- 9 making any necessary referrals for additional treatment or services, (3)
- 10 creating (A) care pathways that include a specialty team that treats
- 11 children who are experiencing a first episode of a psychotic illness, (B)
- 12 a state-wide model for coordinating specialty care for children
- 13 experiencing a psychotic illness, as recommended by the National
- 14 Institute of Mental Health, and (C) services for such children, including,

15 but not limited to, collaboration on psychotherapy, pharmacotherapy
16 and health promotion, family support, education, coordination with
17 community support services and collaboration with employers and
18 education systems, and (4) strengthening existing clinical networks that
19 treat children experiencing a psychotic illness with a focus on outcomes,
20 collaborative research and use of informatics.

Statement of Purpose:

To establish an early childhood psychosis task force to study barriers to adequate and early treatment of psychosis in children.