

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0340

Mental health and substance abuse systems.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Simpson, Childers, Cohee, Gingery, Luthi and Osborn and Senator(s) Coe and Schiffer

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the legislature; providing for a select
2 committee on mental health and substance abuse services;
3 providing for membership of the select committee; providing
4 for studies and legislative recommendations; providing an
5 appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.**

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11 (a) There is appropriated from the general fund to
12 the legislative service office seventy-five thousand
13 dollars (\$75,000.00) to be used for the select committee on
14 mental health and substance abuse services delivery in this
15 state. The committee shall study issues and propose
16 legislation to provide more cost effective and accessible

1 delivery of mental health and substance abuse services,
2 including recommendations regarding a regional approach to
3 providing those services.

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5 (b) The committee shall consist of twelve (12)
6 members as follows:

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8 (i) Six (6) members of the house of
9 representatives, with not more than four (4) members from
10 the same political party. The members shall be appointed
11 by the speaker of the house, who shall also appoint one (1)
12 of the members as cochairman of the committee;

13

14 (ii) Six (6) members of the senate, with not
15 more than four (4) members from the same political party.
16 The members shall be appointed by the president of the
17 senate, who shall also appoint one (1) of the members as
18 cochairman of the committee.

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20 (c) State agencies shall provide information and
21 other support to the committee as requested. The
22 legislative service office shall staff the committee. The
23 committee shall meet as necessary and shall report to the
24 joint judiciary interim committee, the joint appropriations

1 interim committee and the joint labor health and social
2 services interim committee its findings and recommendations
3 for statutory changes not later than November 1, 2005. The
4 findings and recommendations shall address:

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6 (i) Funding sources and levels of funding for
7 mental health and substance abuse services in the state,
8 including levels of funding from federal, state, local and
9 private sources;

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11 (ii) Availability of and access to mental health
12 and substance abuse services in the state, including but
13 not limited to:

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15 (A) The number of beds available in
16 institutions and hospitals for mental health and substance
17 abuse treatment;

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19 (B) The training available for and levels
20 of training achieved by health care providers providing
21 mental health and substance abuse services; and

22

23 (C) The number of persons utilizing health
24 care and substance abuse services annually in this state

1 and estimates of the number of persons needing those
2 services but not utilizing the services.

3

4 (iii) The mental health and substance abuse
5 system of care to assess service continuum within
6 geographic regions of the state, including but not be
7 limited to:

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9 (A) Adult, child, adolescent and family
10 mental health and substance abuse clinical services,
11 including support services for co-occurring conditions;

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13 (B) Use of Medicaid waivers;

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15 (C) Recruitment and retention of
16 psychiatrists and other clinical and support staff.

17

18 (iv) Cost effective alternatives to current
19 methods of substance abuse and mental health services
20 delivery;

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22 (v) Governing body structures and oversight of
23 the programs and services planned and delivered;

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1 (vi) Funding issues including incremental and
2 significant erosion of ability to compete for clinical and
3 support staff and evaluate funding and program issues
4 related to vocational and educational services;

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6 (vii) Accountability activities with respect to
7 comprehensiveness and appropriateness including standards,
8 contracting, data collection, report generation and fiscal
9 management procedures as appropriate;

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11 (viii) Assessment of progress made and
12 sufficiency of mental health and substance abuse services;

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14 (ix) Possible revisions of title 25 of the
15 Wyoming statutes concerning involuntary commitments
16 pertaining to persons with mental illness to achieve the
17 following:

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19 (A) Improvement to procedures to assure that
20 the most appropriate assessments, evaluations and
21 treatments are available, in the shortest possible time and
22 in the most appropriate location, for persons detained
23 under this statute, while protecting all rights of

1 individuals involved and considering the best value to the
2 state;

3

4 (B) Cost management challenges to be met
5 between the state and each county.

6

7 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon
8 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
9 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
10 Constitution.

11

12

(END)