

Testimony
Engrossed House Bill No. 1051
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Lee, Chairman
March 6, 2023

Chairman Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Pamela Sagness, Behavioral Health Executive Director with the Department of Health and Human Services. I appear before you in support of Engrossed House Bill 1051, which was introduced at the request of the Department.

There are two changes in Engrossed House Bill 1051. The first change on page 3 lines 7, 10, and 11 is removing probation and parole as a power and duty of the Department. The second change is on page 6 lines 19-22. The language added allows the Department to provide meals at fair value or without a charge to the employees of the state hospital, life skills and transition center, and the regional human service centers twenty-four hour staffed residential units. This aligns to language utilized by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The recent blizzards are an example of an occasion where the ability to provide meals is essential.

The House Human Services Committee added the language "In the event of a disruption of operations" to clarify the intent is not on a regular basis.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions. Thank you.