

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Pursuant to a Legislative Management Chairman directive, the Human Services Committee was assigned the duty to review the behavioral health bed management system authorized by the 2021 Legislative Assembly to determine if any statutory changes for the program are needed.

Committee members are Senators Judy Lee (Chairman), Howard C. Anderson, Jr., JoNell A. Bakke, Jason G. Heitkamp, Kathy Hogan, and David Hogue and Representatives Gretchen Dobervich, Clayton Fegley, Dwight Kiefert, Alisa Mitskog, Karen M. Rohr, Matthew Ruby, Mark Sanford, Mary Schneider, Randy A. Schobinger, Kathy Skroch, Michelle Strinden, and Greg Westlind.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Background

North Dakota Century Code Section 50-06-41.3, as created in House Bill No. 1012 (2021), requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish and maintain a behavioral health bed management system to improve utilization of behavioral health bed capacity. The section requires public and private providers of residential or inpatient behavioral health services to participate in and report daily to DHS the information and documentation necessary to maintain the system. The database can then be used by providers to identify available behavioral health beds in the state.

Testimony and Committee Discussion

The committee received testimony indicating many behavioral health programs managed by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) are licensed by DHS and would be included in the behavioral health bed management system. However, because behavioral health beds managed by DOCR are not available to the public, it may not be appropriate to include those beds in the database.

Committee Recommendation

The committee recommends a bill draft to amend Section 50-06-41.3 to exclude DOCR from participating in the behavioral health bed management system.