
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A REVIEW
OF THE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

1 WHEREAS, the program objective of the Child and Adolescent
2 Mental Health Division of the Department of Health is the
3 following:
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5 To improve the emotional well-being of children and
6 adolescents and to preserve and strengthen their families
7 by assuring easy access to a child and adolescent-focused,
8 family-centered community-based coordinated system of care
9 that addresses the children's and adolescents' physical,
10 social, emotional and other developmental needs within the
11 least restrictive natural environment. To ensure that the
12 child and adolescent mental health system provides timely
13 and accessible mental health services, with a commitment to
14 continuous monitoring and evaluation for effectiveness and
15 efficiency; and
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17 WHEREAS, the clients of the Division, who are among the
18 most vulnerable in the community, consist of youths who through
19 little or no fault of their own or immature life choices have
20 encountered mental health difficulties; and
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22 WHEREAS, the cost of the child and adolescent mental health
23 program is substantial--\$63,000,000 for fiscal year 2016-2017,
24 of which \$41,600,000 is general funds; and
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26 WHEREAS, given the substantial cost, the Legislature finds
27 that the program should be reviewed for its effectiveness and
28 efficiency; and
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30 WHEREAS, moreover, the Legislature has major concerns about
31 the availability of treatment programs and services on the



1 neighbor islands, lack of payment increases for privately
2 provided residential treatment, and related issues; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Division has a statewide mandate as a result
5 of the Felix Consent Decree to work with the Department of
6 Education to provide services to special education youth with
7 severe mental health conditions, is designated by the Department
8 of Human Services, MedQUEST Division as the sole provider of
9 high end intensive behavioral health services to QUEST enrolled
10 youth, and should be able to receive payment from MedQUEST for
11 reimbursement for services provided to Medicaid eligible
12 children and adolescents; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Division is designated by the Department of
15 Human Services Office of Youth Services to provide mental health
16 services to youth in the juvenile correctional facility and
17 detention home and is frequently court-ordered to provide
18 intensive mental health services as an alternative to
19 incarceration for juvenile justice involved youth and youth
20 leaving juvenile justice care; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Legislature is also concerned about the
23 progress of the current reorganization of the Division, which
24 complicates legislative budget review of program efficiencies
25 and the benefits to, or impacts upon, the children and
26 adolescents who are served by the Division; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that much of its
29 concerns may result from the current level of appropriations for
30 the program; and
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32 WHEREAS, before committing additional resources to the
33 child and adolescent mental health program, however, the
34 Legislature finds that a review of the Child and Adolescent
35 Mental Health Division should be performed to determine the
36 Division's current state of effectiveness and efficiency, the
37 reasons for and status of its reorganization plan, and its plans
38 for future operation; now, therefore,
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40 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-Eighth
41 Legislature, Regular Session of 2016, the House of



1 Representatives concurring, that the Legislative Reference
2 Bureau is requested to conduct a review of the goals,
3 objectives, and rationale of the Department of Health Child and
4 Adolescent Mental Health Division's reorganization plan; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of its review of the
7 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of
8 Health, the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to include
9 and consider the following:
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- 11 (1) How the Division operated and provided services to its
12 clients prior to initiating its reorganization plan;
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- 14 (2) If available from the Department of Health, data that
15 would assist the Legislature in determining the
16 Division's baseline effectiveness in meeting its
17 mandated duties prior to the initiation of its
18 reorganization plan;
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- 20 (3) How the Division developed its reorganization plan,
21 the reasons for the reorganization, and the timetable
22 for the implementation of the plan;
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- 24 (4) How the Division's reorganization plan meets current
25 best practices;
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- 27 (5) What performance benchmarks and monitoring protocols
28 the Division has included in its reorganization plan
29 in order to measure the reorganization's
30 effectiveness;
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- 32 (6) If data is available from the Department of Health,
33 projected client population growth over the next five
34 fiscal years and how the reorganized Division plans on
35 meeting the needs of the increased population;
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- 37 (7) How the Division will be ensuring that it is
38 maximizing reimbursements from and cost sharing
39 opportunities with the federal government;
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- 1 (8) How the Division is collaborating with the Department
2 of Health's other relevant divisions or sister
3 agencies, including but not limited to the Department
4 of Human Services, the Department of Education, the
5 Office of Youth Services, and the Judiciary;
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- 7 (9) A description of the information technology component
8 of the Division's planned reorganization, to include:
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- 10 (A) The objectives of the information technology
11 component;
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- 13 (B) The development, implementation, and operation
14 costs of the information technology component;
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- 16 (C) Actual and projected federal matching funds to be
17 received for the development, implementation, and
18 operation costs of the information technology
19 component;
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- 21 (D) Protocols that the Division has or will have in
22 place to ensure that vendor and maintenance costs
23 remain at or below a level that is considered
24 acceptable based on industry or best practices
25 standards; and
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- 27 (E) Protocols that the Division has or will have in
28 place to ensure that the information technology
29 component will operate according to the
30 Division's contract specifications; and
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- 32 (10) The initial costs of the reorganization plan, costs of
33 any foreseeable disruptions in client service or
34 provider reimbursements, and estimated ongoing annual
35 operating costs for the next five fiscal years to
36 maintain the Division in its reorganized form; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and
39 other relevant state departments and agencies are requested to
40 cooperate with the Legislative Reference Bureau in the conduct
41 of the review; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and
3 other relevant state departments and agencies are requested to
4 submit all information requested by the Legislature Reference
5 Bureau by no later than August 1, 2016; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
8 Bureau is requested to submit a report to the Legislature at
9 least twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of
10 2017; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
14 Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, Chief of
15 the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, Director of
16 Human Services, Superintendent of Education, Chief Justice, and
17 the Executive Director of Youth Services.
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