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# 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

13  
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 effectiveness and efficiency of its operation; now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-Eighth  
39 Legislature, Regular Session of 2016, the House of  
40 Representatives concurring, that the Legislative Reference  
41 Bureau is requested to conduct a review of the Child and



1 Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of Health;  
2 and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of the review, the  
5 Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to include and  
6 consider the following and provide a comparative analysis to  
7 other similar states' systems:  
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- 9 (1) How the Division assures the accessibility and  
10 timeliness of treatment, including to rural  
11 populations;  
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- 13 (2) Interaction of the Division with the Department of  
14 Health's other relevant divisions or agencies, the  
15 Department of Human Services, the Department of  
16 Education, and the Office of Youth Services;  
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- 18 (3) How the Division manages a statewide system of care to  
19 assure continuity of care, effective case management,  
20 and communications among patients, families, and  
21 service providers;  
22
- 23 (4) The Division's approach to services delivery,  
24 measurement, and quality improvement, including  
25 assuring access to an array of high-quality clinical  
26 services driven by youth care plans, and availability  
27 and uniformity of care across the State;  
28
- 29 (5) Reimbursement and revenue enhancement through  
30 optimizing Medicaid reimbursement, as well as joint  
31 ventures with other child-serving agencies, including  
32 progress and compliance in meeting Medicaid  
33 regulations;  
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- 35 (6) Adequacy of payments to the Division's contracted  
36 private providers of therapeutic services;  
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- 38 (7) The structure and function of the Division in regard  
39 to its reorganization and mission as the safety net  
40 provider of behavioral health services for youth with  
41 severe mental health conditions;  
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1 (8) Comparisons of the Division's system of care to other  
2 states' systems of care, including: effectiveness of  
3 services, use of out-of-state care providers and  
4 placement, access to care in rural areas, evidence-  
5 based practices, costs of services, adequacy of  
6 Medicaid reimbursement contracted provider payment,  
7 client satisfaction, and timeline of provider payment;  
8 and  
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10 (9) The interface between the Division's system of care  
11 for youth with severe mental health disorders as a  
12 safety net provider and the systems in place to serve  
13 youth with mild-to-moderate mental health conditions,  
14 including the Department of Education and the private  
15 mental health systems; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and  
18 other relevant state departments and agencies are requested to  
19 cooperate with the Legislative Reference Bureau in the conduct  
20 of the review; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
23 Bureau is requested to submit a report to the Legislature at  
24 least twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of  
25 2017; and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,  
29 Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, and Chief  
30 of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division.

