
DIGEST

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HB 961 Original

2024 Regular Session

Muscarello

Abstract: Establishes a mental health transition pilot program to be administered within the parishes of Livingston, St. Helena, and Tangipahoa.

Proposed law provides that the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections shall establish a mental health transition pilot program to be administered within the parishes of Livingston, St. Helena, and Tangipahoa to provide eligible individuals with transition services in the community while on probation or parole.

Proposed law provides that in order to determine eligibility for the program, the department shall conduct basic level screening of individuals placed on probation or parole for mental health disorders as defined in the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Assoc.

Proposed law provides that each eligible individual who participates in the program shall be required, as a condition of probation or parole, to immediately do all of the following upon being placed on probation or released on parole:

- (1) Schedule and attend all appointments at the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority or any local governmental entity, district, or authority, for any and all mental health or substance use disorder treatments, if indicated.
- (2) Complete a Medicaid application.

Proposed law provides that the department shall apply for a demonstration waiver pursuant to present law (42 U.S.C. 1315) when established by the La. Dept. of Health and approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Proposed law provides that the department shall do all of the following:

- (1) Conduct an annual study to determine the recidivism rates of individuals who receive a contracted entity's mental health transition services pursuant to proposed law. Further provides that the study shall include the recidivism rates of individuals who have been placed on probation or released from incarceration for a minimum of one year after placement on probation or release.
- (2) On or before Dec. 31st of each year, submit a written report to the governor, the president

of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and provide a copy of this report to the secretary of state. Further provides that the report may be submitted electronically and shall contain the one-year rate of return of individuals to the custody of the department.

(Adds R.S. 15:830.3)