

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013**

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**HOUSE BILL 1132\***

Short Title: Strategies for Improving MH-DD-SAS. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives S. Martin, Burr, and Lambeth (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

Referred to: Health and Human Services.

May 21, 2014

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO  
DEVELOP AND REPORT ON STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
IMPROVING THE DELIVERY OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, AS RECOMMENDED BY  
THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division by November 1, 2014, that includes all of the following components:

- (1) A strategy for improving communication and coordination among all divisions within the Department that administer funds or programs related to the delivery of behavioral health services, especially regarding the most appropriate and efficient uses of public and private inpatient behavioral health services. The Department shall include as part of its strategy a process to address shortages and deficiencies identified in the annual State Medical Facilities Plan.
- (2) A plan developed in collaboration with local management entities that have been approved to operate as managed care organizations (LME/MCOs) to increase access to, and availability of, community-based outpatient crisis and emergency services for the stabilization and treatment of individuals experiencing mental health, developmental disability, or substance abuse crises in settings other than local hospital emergency departments and State-operated psychiatric hospitals.
- (3) A plan to ensure that a comprehensive array of outpatient treatment and crisis prevention and intervention services are available and accessible to children, adolescents, and adults in every LME/MCO catchment area. The plan shall ensure that an adequate number of crisis stabilization units are available in each LME/MCO catchment area.
- (4) Findings and recommendations for increasing the inventory of inpatient psychiatric and substance abuse services within the State. In developing its findings and recommendations, the Department shall examine the advantages and disadvantages of increasing this inventory of services



1 through (i) additional State-operated facilities, (ii) community hospital beds,  
2 (iii) United States Veterans Administration beds, and (iv) community-based  
3 services that decrease the need for inpatient treatment.

4 (5) A plan for offering hospitals and other entities incentives to apply for  
5 licenses to begin offering new inpatient behavioral health services, or to  
6 begin operating existing licensed beds that are currently unstaffed, or both.

7 (6) Recommendations on the use of the existing Cherry Hospital buildings after  
8 patients and operations are relocated to the replacement facility. In  
9 developing its findings and recommendations, the Department shall conduct  
10 a study that includes development of an inventory and assessment of the  
11 condition of every building located on the existing Cherry Hospital campus.  
12 The study shall include an examination of the feasibility of using the existing  
13 Cherry Hospital facility to provide community-based and facility-based  
14 behavioral health services, including additional child and adolescent  
15 inpatient beds.

16 (7) A method by which the Division of Health Service Regulation can begin  
17 tracking and separately reporting no later than January 1, 2015, on the  
18 inventory of inpatient behavioral health beds for children ages six through  
19 12 and for adolescents over age 12.

20 (8) A status update on the implementation of each component of the 2008  
21 Mental Health Commission Workforce Development Plan.

22 **SECTION 2.** The Department shall submit a report to the House of  
23 Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the Senate  
24 Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight  
25 Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division by March 1,  
26 2015, that includes all of the following components:

27 (1) A comprehensive strategy, developed in collaboration with stakeholders  
28 deemed relevant by the Department, to address the dearth of licensed child  
29 and adolescent inpatient psychiatric beds throughout the State. The strategy  
30 shall:

31 a. Ensure that an adequate inventory of child and adolescent beds are  
32 available in each LME/MCO catchment area.

33 b. Include the development and implementation of a child and  
34 adolescent psychiatric bed registry to provide real-time information  
35 on the number of beds available at each licensed inpatient facility in  
36 the State.

37 (2) Recommendations for meaningful outcome measures to be implemented by  
38 State-operated alcohol and drug abuse treatment centers to assess the impact  
39 of inpatient treatment on an individual's substance use following discharge  
40 from a State-operated alcohol and drug abuse treatment center. The  
41 recommendations shall include a proposed time line for implementation of  
42 these outcome measures.

43 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.