

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 961 (Substitute for House Bill No. 338 by Representative Muscarello)

BY REPRESENTATIVE MUSCARELLO

CORRECTIONS/PRISONERS: Provides relative to the creation of a mental health transition pilot program

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:830.3, relative to the creation of a mental health transition pilot program;  
3 to provide for a pilot program; to provide for administration of the pilot program in  
4 certain parishes; to provide for eligibility; to provide for the duties of the Department  
5 of Public Safety and Corrections; to provide for criteria; and to provide for related  
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 15:830.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §830.3. Mental health transition pilot program

10 A.(1) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall establish a  
11 mental health transition pilot program to be administered within the parishes of  
12 Livingston, St. Helena, and Tangipahoa to provide eligible individuals with  
13 transition services in the community while on probation or parole.

14 (2) In order to determine eligibility for the program, the department shall  
15 conduct basic level screening of individuals placed on probation or parole for mental  
16 health disorders as defined in the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical  
17 Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association.

1           B. Each eligible individual who participates in the program shall be required,  
2           as a condition of probation or parole, to immediately do all of the following upon  
3           being placed on probation or released on parole:

4           (1) Schedule and attend all appointments at the Florida Parishes Human  
5           Services Authority or any local governmental entity, district, or authority, for any  
6           and all mental health or substance use disorder treatments, if indicated.

7           (2) Complete a Medicaid application.

8           C. The department shall apply for a demonstration waiver pursuant to 42  
9           U.S.C. 1315 when established by the Louisiana Department of Health and approved  
10          by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

11          D. The department shall do all of the following:

12          (1) Conduct an annual study to determine the recidivism rates of individuals  
13          who receive mental health transition services from a contracted entity pursuant to  
14          this Section. The study shall include the recidivism rates of individuals who have  
15          been placed on probation or released from incarceration for a minimum of one year  
16          after placement on probation or release.

17          (2) On or before December thirty-first of each year, submit a written report  
18          to the governor, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of  
19          Representatives, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and provide a  
20          copy of this report to the secretary of state. The report may be submitted  
21          electronically and shall contain the one-year rate of return of individuals to the  
22          custody of the department based on those who received services in the program  
23          compared to those who were placed on probation or released with a diagnosis of a  
24          serious mental health disorder who did not receive services in the program during the  
25          same period.

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**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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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)