

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 763

BY REPRESENTATIVES CARPENTER, HUNTER, AND JACKSON

HUMAN SERVICES: Authorizes and provides for mental health emergency room extensions

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 28:931 and 932, relative to healthcare services for persons experiencing
3 mental health or behavioral health crises; to authorize establishment of facilities to
4 be known as mental health emergency room extensions; to provide for powers of
5 human services districts and authorities with respect to such facilities; to provide for
6 the geographic location of such facilities; to condition establishment of any such
7 facility upon appropriation of funds; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 28:931 and 932 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §931. Definitions; purposes

11 A. As used in this Part, "mental health emergency room extension" and
12 "MHERE" mean a type of crisis receiving center in which a staff of mental health
13 and behavioral health specialists provide a high level of screening and assessment
14 to people experiencing mental health or behavioral health crises.

15 B. The purposes of a mental health emergency room extension include,
16 without limitation, all of the following:

17 (1) To properly connect patients experiencing mental health or behavioral
18 health crises to either acute or ongoing community-based treatment.

19 (2) To diminish the need in a community for recurrent crisis services for
20 persons suffering from mental illness, substance abuse, or both conditions.

1 (3) To serve as a crisis continuum component that assists law enforcement
2 officers, hospital emergency departments, and jails by treating persons with mental
3 health and behavioral health conditions in an appropriate setting.

4 §932. Mental health emergency room extensions; establishment and operation;
5 duties of human services districts and authorities

6 A. Human services districts and authorities are hereby authorized to establish
7 mental health emergency room extensions, referred to individually hereafter in this
8 Part as "an MHERE", in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

9 B. Subject to appropriation for this purpose, a human services district or
10 authority may establish and operate an MHERE in any parish that meets all of the
11 following criteria:

12 (1) The parish has a population of more than four hundred forty thousand
13 according to the latest federal decennial census.

14 (2) The parish experienced the closure of a hospital provided for in R.S.
15 17:1519.2 that had been operated by the Health Care Services Division of the LSU
16 Health Sciences Center-New Orleans.

17 C. Human services districts and authorities are hereby authorized, but are not
18 required, to establish any MHERE pursuant to this Section as a Level III
19 (freestanding) crisis receiving center in accordance with the provisions of LAC
20 48:I.5301 et seq.

21 Section 2.(A) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to designate R.S.
22 28:911 through 920 as Part I of Chapter 21 of Title 28 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
23 1950, and to entitle the Part "Human Services Districts and Authorities: General
24 Provisions".

25 (B) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to designate R.S. 28:931
26 and 932, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, as Part II of Chapter 21 of Title 28 of the
27 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, and to entitle the Part "Mental Health Emergency Room
28 Extensions".

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)]

HB 763 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Carpenter

Abstract: Authorizes establishment of mental health emergency room extensions by human services districts and authorities.

Proposed law defines "mental health emergency room extension" and "MHERE" as a type of crisis receiving center in which a staff of mental health and behavioral health specialists provide a high level of screening and assessment to people experiencing mental health or behavioral health crises. Provides that the purposes of a mental health emergency room extension include, without limitation, all of the following:

- (1) To properly connect patients experiencing mental health or behavioral health crises to either acute or ongoing community-based treatment.
- (2) To diminish the need in a community for recurrent crisis services for persons suffering from mental illness, substance abuse, or both conditions.
- (3) To serve as a crisis continuum component that assists law enforcement officers, hospital emergency departments, and jails by treating persons with mental health and behavioral health conditions in an appropriate setting.

Proposed law authorizes human services districts and authorities to establish MHEREs in accordance with the provisions of proposed law. Provides that subject to appropriation therefor, a human services district or authority may establish and operate an MHERE in any parish that meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) The parish has a population of more than 440,000 according to the latest federal decennial census.
- (2) The parish experienced the closure of a hospital that had been operated by the LSU Health Care Services Division.

Proposed law stipulates that human services districts and authorities are authorized, but not required, to establish any MHERE pursuant to proposed law as a Level III (freestanding) crisis receiving center in accordance with present administrative law.

(Adds R.S. 28:931 and 932)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Stipulate that human services districts and authorities are authorized, but not required, to establish any mental health emergency room extension pursuant to proposed law as a Level III (freestanding) crisis receiving center in accordance with present administrative law.