

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: None****Action:****Vote:**

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 3/24, 4/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Expands authority and process to exercise custody over mentally ill persons to include licensed independent practitioners, in addition to physicians. Defines licensed independent practitioners. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current process to hold and treat a person experiencing a mental health crisis, without their consent
- Properly defining “licensed independent practitioner”;
- Proper scope of authority
- Best practices

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

[-2 amendment] Modifies definition of “licensed independent practitioner” to reference certified nurse practitioners authorized to write prescriptions. Requires initial determination of “person with a mental illness” be made by physician.

BACKGROUND: The current process to hold a mentally-ill person involuntarily who has presented at an emergency room or an acute inpatient psychiatric unit, requires two people, and is limited to physicians. Difficulties, inefficiencies and delays in treating psychiatric patients arise when two people are not available, and when those asked to authorize treatment are not actually, directly involved.

Senate Bill 840 extends the authority to place an involuntary psychiatric hold on a patient, and to treat the patient, to licensed independent practitioners as well as physicians.