

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 05/18/15

**Action:** Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

**Meeting Dates:** 05/18

**Vote:**

Yeas: 8 - Buehler, Greenlick, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse, Weidner

Abs: 1 - Clem

**Prepared By:** Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Authorizes licensed independent practitioner to initiate or approve prehearing detention in hospital or nonhospital facility of person who is subject of civil commitment proceedings. Defines and standardizes “licensed independent practitioner.”

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Current civil commitment power
- Impact of extending civil commitment powers to nurse practitioners
- Current process for holding and treating individuals in a mental health crisis
- Shortage of mental health professionals
- Proposed amendment

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Standardizes references to be consistent with licensed independent practitioner.

**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-B 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.