

**SB 51 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Human Services**

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**Prepared By:** Matt Doumit, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Senate Committee On General Government and Accountability

**Meeting Dates:** 3/15

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes Task Force on Behavior Health to investigate integration of behavioral health with physical health, best practices, and training for licensed physicians. Requires task force to report findings and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly by December 31, 2017. Sunsets December 31, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

*FISCAL: May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued*

*REVENUE: May Have Revenue Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Behavioral health conditions can play a significant role in overall health spending, and physical health practitioners are sometimes asked to advise patients on behavioral and mental health conditions. The Federal Medicaid Program reports that in 2015, half of Medicaid enrollees in the top five percent of health expenditures had a mental health condition, and one-fifth had a substance abuse disorder. Failing to coordinate care between physical and mental and behavioral health can have significant negative impacts on patients.

Senate Bill 51 establishes a Task Force on Behavior Health. It requires the task force to investigate models for integrating behavior and physical health, best practices for integration, and methods to improve training of licensed physicians in treating behavioral issues. The measure requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to an interim health care committee of the legislature by December 31, 2017.