

February 1, 2019

2019-2020 Legislative Session

Legislative News is a publication prepared and distributed by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (DMH) Office of Public Affairs to keep you informed of bills introduced in the General Assembly that may affect the DMH, mental health, health care issues, or employee issues. In addition, we will provide budget information and general news from the General Assembly. You can also access the complete bills online by clicking the link at the end of each description, OR visiting <http://www.scstatehouse.gov>.

This publication is also available on the DMH Internet and Intranet sites. However, if you do not have access to the site and wish to receive a copy of the update, call us, and we will send you one in the mail. If at any time you have questions or need more information about bills or other legislative issues, contact the Office of Public Affairs at (803) 898-8582 or tracy.lapointe@scdmh.org.

Senate Bills – click on the bill number for full text.	
S 8	<p>Behavioral and Public Health – Peeler This bill would rename the Department of Health and Environmental Control the "Department of Behavioral and Public Health", make it a Cabinet agency, and create within it a Division of Public Health (and transfer environmental-related responsibilities to the Department of Agriculture). The bill would abolish the SCDMH and SC Mental Health Commission, as well as the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, and transfer the responsibilities of both to the Division of Public Health. <i>Introduced, read first time, and referred to Medical Affairs Committee, 1/08/19.</i></p>
S 197	<p>Department of Aging and Vulnerable Adult Services – Shealy, Climer This bill would require the Department of Aging, the Department of Social Services' Adult Protective Services program, the Governor's Division on Aging, or the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging to establish a Department of Aging and Vulnerable Adult Services. <i>Introduced, read first time, and referred to Family and Veterans' Services Committee, 1/08/19.</i></p>
S 303	<p>Mental Health Transport (similar <u>H 3592</u>) – Kimpson, Shealy, Fanning, Davis This bill relates to the custody and transport of individuals believed to have mental illness and requiring immediate care; it would require that state or local law enforcement officers who transport these patients be part of a "therapeutic transport unit" and have undergone mental health and Crisis Intervention Training. The bill further requires that the physician responsible for the individual's care notify a friend or relative of the patient that they may transport the patient to the indicated mental health facility, and that the friend/relative freely chooses to assume responsibility and liability for the transport. <i>Introduced, read first time, and referred to Medical Affairs Committee, 1/08/19.</i></p>
House Bills – click on the bill number for full text.	
H 3273	<p>Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment Registry Act – G.R. Smith, Bernstein, Clary, V.S. Moss, Cobb-Hunter, Burns, Huggins, Long This bill would create a "Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment Registry", requiring the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and the South Carolina Department Of Social Services to determine whether reports of vulnerable adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation are indicated, whether there is a known perpetrator of the maltreatment. It would place certain persons determined to have abused, neglected, or exploited a vulnerable adult on the Registry, and limit access to the Registry and prohibit release of reports, with exceptions. <i>Introduced, read first time, and referred to Judiciary Committee, 1/08/19.</i></p>

Legislative Oversight Update

In 2014, the Legislature passed a law providing for the House and the Senate to each, separately, perform a periodic review of all State agencies. The Senate selected SCDMH for review in 2015, issuing its final report in March of 2016. In 2018, the House of Representatives selected SCDMH for study.

The purpose of these reviews is to inform the Legislature in detail about an agency's programs and operations and to ensure the Agency is operating as the State intended. Stewart Cooner, director of Special Programs and Telepsychiatry, will serve as the SCDMH liaison to the House staff conducting the Study, and employees throughout the Agency will work with him to provide information sought by the legislative staff.

Thus far, SCDMH has provided extensive written background information to the House Legislative Oversight Committee (LOC), as requested. The full LOC took comments from the public at a hearing on January 14, 2019, wherein several advocates provided positive feedback about SCDMH. This testimony and all future hearings is available for viewing at this URL: www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/AgencyPHPFiles/MentalHealth.php.

On February 5, 2019, SCDMH will have the first of several meetings with the LOC study subcommittee. Future *Legislative News* editions will include updates on the progress of the Study until its completion.

Budget Update

The Department presented its FY20 budget request to the Executive Budget Office October 24, 2018 and the Senate Finance Health and Human Services Budget Subcommittee December 5, 2018. The presentation to the House Ways & Means Healthcare Subcommittee is scheduled for February 5.

The following table shows DMH's FY20 budget request side-by-side with recommendations from the Governor's Office.

	DMH Request	Governor's Recommendation
RECURRING		
Crisis Stabilization Units	1,000,000	-
Improving Local Access	1,000,000	-
Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program	481,974	481,974
Contractual Adjustment - Inpatient Services	1,334,424	1,334,424
School Mental Health Services	1,250,000	2,200,000
Psychiatric Medical Services	1,394,000	-
First Episode Psychosis (FEP) Programs	600,000	-
Additional Community Supportive Housing	2,400,000	-
Information Technology	2,600,000	1,550,000
DMH Crime Victims Counseling Support	1,750,000	-
Long Term Care Division	250,000	-
Funds for Appointed Counsel in Civil Commitment Proceedings	800,000	-
TOTAL RECURRING	14,860,398	5,566,398
NON-RECURRING		
Community Mental Health Services - Outpatient Electronic Health Record	4,500,000	-
TOTAL NON-RECURRING	4,500,000	-
CAPITAL		
Certification of State Match (VA Nursing Homes)	37,065,450	37,065,450
Suicide Prevention - Ligature Resistant Fixtures	1,252,786	-
Catawba Mental Health Center Construction	12,430,000	-
Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health Center Construction	12,430,000	-
NE Campus Electrical Distribution System Renovations	3,600,000	-
Community Buildings Deferred Maintenance	3,000,000	-
Columbia Area MHC Phase III Construction	4,000,000	-
Campbell Veterans Nursing Home Renovations	3,940,000	3,940,000
Roddey Pavilion Renovations (Flooring, Laundry)	2,000,000	-
TOTAL CAPITAL	79,718,236	41,005,450
GRAND TOTAL REQUEST	99,078,634	46,571,848
Increase in Federal Authorization	3,100,000	3,100,000