

SENATE BILL NO. 28

INTRODUCED BY C. KAUFMANN

BY REQUEST OF THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING THAT MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION GRANT AWARDS ARE BASED ON ADMISSIONS TO THE MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL; AMENDING SECTION 53-21-1203, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 53-21-1203, MCA, is amended to read:

**"53-21-1203. State matching fund grants for county crisis intervention, jail diversion, precommitment, and short-term inpatient treatment costs.** (1) As soon as possible after July 1 of each year, from funds appropriated by the legislature for the purposes of this section, the department shall grant to each eligible county state matching funds for:

- (a) jail diversion and crisis intervention services to implement 53-21-1201 and 53-21-1202;
- (b) insurance coverage against catastrophic precommitment costs; if a county insurance pool is established pursuant to 2-9-211; and
- (c) short-term inpatient treatment.

(2) Grant amounts must be based on available funding and the prospects that a county or multicounty plan submitted pursuant to subsection (3) will, if implemented, reduce admissions to the state hospital for emergency and court-ordered detention and evaluation and ultimately result in cost savings to the state. The department shall develop a sliding scale for state grants based upon the historical county use of the state hospital with a high-use county receiving a lower percentage of matching funds. The sliding scale must be based upon the number of ~~commitments~~ admissions by county compared to total ~~commitments~~ admissions and upon the population of each county compared to the state population.

(3) In order to be eligible for the state matching funds, a county shall, in the time and manner prescribed by the department:

- (a) apply for the funds and include in the grant application a detailed plan for how the county and other local entities will collaborate and commit local funds for the mental health services listed in subsection (1);



1 (b) develop and submit to the department a county or multicounty jail diversion and crisis intervention  
2 services strategic plan pursuant to 53-21-1201 and 53-21-1202, including a plan for community-based or regional  
3 emergency and court-ordered detention and examination services and short-term inpatient treatment;

4 (c) participate in a statewide or regional county insurance plan for precommitment costs under  
5 53-21-132; if a statewide or regional insurance plan has been established; as authorized under 2-9-211;

6 (d) participate in a statewide or regional jail suicide prevention program; if one has been established by  
7 the department for the state or for the region in which the county is situated; and

8 (e) collect and report data and information on county jail diversion, crisis intervention, and short-term  
9 inpatient treatment services in the form and manner prescribed by the department to support program evaluation  
10 and measure progress on performance goals.

11 (4) The department shall adopt rules ~~by August 1, 2009~~, to implement the provisions of this section."  
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13 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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