

HB 422: Children's Mental Health Outcomes

Pilot Project Elements

Prepared for the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
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Background

Under House Bill 422, the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee must draft a bill for a pilot project to improve and track outcomes in the children's mental health system.

Pilot projects allow policymakers to try out a new theory, program, or policy approach in a limited fashion before deciding whether to put it into effect more widely. Typically, such projects target a specific set of services, area of the state, or group of people. They also spell out activities to be undertaken and require collection and evaluation of data.

Building Blocks of Pilot Project Legislation

The specific details of any legislation for a pilot project are usually based on answers to the following questions:

- What is the reason for creating the pilot project?
- What theory will the pilot project test or what goal will it try to accomplish?
- Who will take part in the pilot project?
 - ▶ Will eligibility be based on a person's age, the services they receive, the area of the state in which they live, or a combination of those factors?
- What services or activities will be included?
- How long will the pilot project last?
- What data will be collected to evaluate the results?
- Who will collect and analyze the data?
- Who will receive information about the results of the pilot project?
- What existing laws must be amended so the pilot project can be carried out?

The committee's decisions on these and other questions will shape the pilot project legislation that goes to the 2017 Legislature.