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\*\*\*\* BILL NO. \*\*\*\*

INTRODUCED BY \*\*\*\*

BY REQUEST OF THE \*\*\*\*

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS REGARDING THE INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE, OTHER DEMENTIAS, AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES; ENDING INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT OF THE INDIVIDUALS AFTER JUNE 30, 2025, WHEN ONLY CERTAIN COMMITMENT CRITERIA ARE MET; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO TRANSITION MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL PATIENTS WITH THOSE DIAGNOSES TO COMMUNITY SERVICES; ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY TRANSITION REVIEW COMMITTEE; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTIONS 53-21-126, 53-21-127, 53-21-401, AND 53-21-402, MCA; PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES; AND PROVIDING A TERMINATION DATE."

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

**Section 1.** Section 53-21-126, MCA, is amended to read:

**"53-21-126. Trial or hearing on petition.** (1) The respondent must be present unless the respondent's presence has been waived as provided in 53-21-119(2), and the respondent must be represented by counsel at all stages of the trial. The trial must be limited to the determination of whether or not the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder and requires commitment. At the trial, the court shall consider all the facts relevant to the issues of whether the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder. If the court determines that the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder, the court shall then determine whether the respondent requires commitment. In determining whether the respondent requires commitment and the appropriate disposition under 53-21-127, the court shall consider the following:

- (a) whether the respondent, because of a mental disorder, is substantially unable to provide for the respondent's own basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety;
- (b) whether the respondent has recently, because of a mental disorder and through an act or an

1 omission, caused self-injury or injury to others;

2 (c) whether, because of a mental disorder, there is an imminent threat of injury to the respondent or to  
3 others because of the respondent's acts or omissions; and

4 (d)(i) whether the respondent's mental disorder, as demonstrated by the respondent's recent acts or  
5 omissions, will, if untreated, predictably result in deterioration of the respondent's mental condition to the point  
6 at which the respondent will:

7 (A) become a danger to self or to others; or

8 (B) will be unable to provide for the respondent's own basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or  
9 safety.

10 (ii) Predictability may be established by the respondent's relevant medical history.

11 (2) The standard of proof in a hearing held pursuant to this section is proof beyond a reasonable  
12 doubt with respect to any physical facts or evidence and clear and convincing evidence as to all other matters.  
13 However, the respondent's mental disorder must be proved to a reasonable medical certainty. Imminent threat  
14 of self-inflicted injury or injury to others must be proved by overt acts or omissions, sufficiently recent in time as  
15 to be material and relevant as to the respondent's present condition.

16 (3) The professional person appointed by the court must be present for the trial and subject to cross-  
17 examination. The trial is governed by the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure. However, if the issues are tried by  
18 a jury, at least two-thirds of the jurors shall concur on a finding that the respondent is suffering from a mental  
19 disorder and requires commitment. The written report of the professional person that indicates the professional  
20 person's diagnosis may be attached to the petition, but any matter otherwise inadmissible, such as hearsay  
21 matter, is not admissible merely because it is contained in the report. The court may order the trial closed to the  
22 public for the protection of the respondent.

23 (4) The professional person may testify as to the ultimate issue of whether the respondent is suffering  
24 from a mental disorder and requires commitment. This testimony is insufficient unless accompanied by  
25 evidence from the professional person or others that:

26 (a) the respondent, because of a mental disorder, is substantially unable to provide for the  
27 respondent's own basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety;

28 (b) the respondent has recently, because of a mental disorder and through an act or an omission,

1 caused self-injury or injury to others;

2 (c) because of a mental disorder, there is an imminent threat of injury to the respondent or to others  
3 because of the respondent's acts or omissions; or

4 (d) (i) the respondent's mental disorder:

5 (A) has resulted in recent acts, omissions, or behaviors that create difficulty in protecting the  
6 respondent's life or health;

7 (B) is treatable, with a reasonable prospect of success;

8 (C) has resulted in the respondent's refusing or being unable to consent to voluntary admission for  
9 treatment; and

10 (ii) will, if untreated, predictably result in deterioration of the respondent's mental condition to the point  
11 at which the respondent will become a danger to self or to others or will be unable to provide for the  
12 respondent's own basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety. Predictability may be established by  
13 the respondent's relevant medical history.

14 (5) The court, upon the showing of good cause and when it is in the best interests of the respondent,  
15 may order a change of venue.

16 (6) An individual with a primary diagnosis of a mental disorder who also has a co-occurring diagnosis  
17 of chemical dependency may satisfy criteria for commitment under this part.

18 (7) An individual with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or traumatic brain injury  
19 may be committed under this part only if the person meets the criteria outlined in subsection (1)(b), (1)(c), or  
20 (1)(d)(i)(A)."

21

22 **Section 2.** Section 53-21-127, MCA, is amended to read:

23 **"53-21-127. Posttrial disposition.** (1) If, ~~A respondent must be discharged and the petition~~  
24 dismissed if, upon trial, it is determined that the respondent:

25 (a) is not suffering from a mental disorder ~~or;~~

26 (b) does not require commitment within the meaning of this part, ~~the respondent must be discharged~~  
27 and the petition dismissed; or

28 (c) is suffering from a mental disorder but the respondent's primary diagnosis is Alzheimer's disease.

1 dementia, or traumatic brain injury and the respondent meets only the commitment criteria outlined in 53-21-  
2 126(1)(a) or (1)(d)(i)(B).

3 (2) If it is determined that the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder and requires commitment  
4 within the meaning of this part, the court shall hold a posttrial disposition hearing. The disposition hearing must  
5 be held within 5 days (including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays unless the fifth day falls on a Saturday,  
6 Sunday, or holiday), during which time the court may order further evaluation and treatment of the respondent.

7 (3) At the conclusion of the disposition hearing and pursuant to the provisions in subsection (7), the  
8 court shall:

9 (a) subject to the provisions of 53-21-193, commit the respondent to the state hospital or to a  
10 behavioral health inpatient facility for a period of not more than 3 months;

11 (b) commit the respondent to a community facility, which may include a category D assisted living  
12 facility, or a community program or to any appropriate course of treatment, which may include housing or  
13 residential requirements or conditions as provided in 53-21-149, for a period of:

14 (i) not more than 3 months; or

15 (ii) not more than 6 months in order to provide the respondent with a less restrictive commitment in the  
16 community rather than a more restrictive placement in the state hospital if a respondent has been previously  
17 involuntarily committed for inpatient treatment in a mental health facility and the court determines that the  
18 admission of evidence of the previous involuntary commitment is relevant to the criterion of predictability, as  
19 provided in 53-21-126(1)(d), and outweighs the prejudicial effect of its admission, as provided in 53-21-190; or

20 (c) commit the respondent to the Montana mental health nursing care center for a period of not more  
21 than 3 months if the following conditions are met:

22 (i) the respondent meets the admission criteria of the center as described in 53-21-411 and  
23 established in administrative rules of the department; and

24 (ii) the superintendent of the center has issued a written authorization specifying a date and time for  
25 admission.

26 (4) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b)(ii), a treatment ordered pursuant to this section may not  
27 affect the respondent's custody or course of treatment for a period of more than 3 months.

28 (5) In determining which of the alternatives in subsection (3) to order, the court shall choose the least

1 restrictive alternatives necessary to protect the respondent and the public and to permit effective treatment.

2 (6) The court may authorize the chief medical officer of a facility or a physician designated by the  
3 court to administer appropriate medication involuntarily if the court finds that involuntary medication is  
4 necessary to protect the respondent or the public or to facilitate effective treatment. Medication may not be  
5 involuntarily administered to a patient unless the chief medical officer of the facility or a physician designated by  
6 the court approves it prior to the beginning of the involuntary administration and unless, if possible, a  
7 medication review committee reviews it prior to the beginning of the involuntary administration or, if prior review  
8 is not possible, within 5 working days after the beginning of the involuntary administration. The medication  
9 review committee must include at least one person who is not an employee of the facility or program. The  
10 patient and the patient's attorney or advocate, if the patient has one, must receive adequate written notice of  
11 the date, time, and place of the review and must be allowed to appear and give testimony and evidence. The  
12 involuntary administration of medication must be again reviewed by the committee 14 days and 90 days after  
13 the beginning of the involuntary administration if medication is still being involuntarily administered. The mental  
14 disabilities board of visitors and the director of the department of public health and human services must be  
15 fully informed of the matter within 5 working days after the beginning of the involuntary administration. The  
16 director shall report to the governor on an annual basis.

17 (7) Satisfaction, Except as provided in 53-21-126(7), satisfaction of any one of the criteria listed in 53-  
18 21-126(1) justifies commitment pursuant to this chapter. However, if the court relies solely upon the criterion  
19 provided in 53-21-126(1)(d), the court may require commitment only to a community facility, which may include  
20 a category D assisted living facility, or a program or an appropriate course of treatment, as provided in  
21 subsection (3)(b), and may not require commitment at the state hospital, a behavioral health inpatient facility, or  
22 the Montana mental health nursing care center.

23 (8) In ordering commitment pursuant to this section, the court shall make the following findings of fact:

24 (a) a detailed statement of the facts upon which the court found the respondent to be suffering from a  
25 mental disorder and requiring commitment;

26 (b) the alternatives for treatment that were considered;

27 (c) the alternatives available for treatment of the respondent;

28 (d) the reason that any treatment alternatives were determined to be unsuitable for the respondent;

1 (e) the name of the facility, program, or individual to be responsible for the management and  
2 supervision of the respondent's treatment;

3 (f) if the order includes a requirement for inpatient treatment, the reason inpatient treatment was  
4 chosen from among other alternatives;

5 (g) if the order commits the respondent to the Montana mental health nursing care center, a finding  
6 that the respondent meets the admission criteria of the center and that the superintendent of the center has  
7 issued a written authorization specifying a date and time for admission;

8 (h) if the order provides for an evaluation to determine eligibility for entering a category D assisted  
9 living facility, a finding that indicates whether:

10 (i) the respondent meets the admission criteria;

11 (ii) there is availability in a category D assisted living facility; and

12 (iii) a category D assisted living facility is the least restrictive environment because the respondent is  
13 unlikely to benefit from involuntary commitment to facilities with more intensive treatment; and

14 (i) if the order includes involuntary medication, the reason involuntary medication was chosen from  
15 among other alternatives."

16

17 **Section 3.** Section 53-21-401, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **"53-21-401. Legislative intent.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature that geriatric patients at the

19 Montana state hospital and geriatric residents of the state who may ~~in the future be placed at~~ be at risk of

20 commitment to the Montana state hospital and who do not need intensive psychiatric care receive care and

21 treatment in nursing homes located in community settings.

22 (2) It is the further intent of the legislature that nursing homes providing such care and treatment be  
23 located regionally so that the residents may be near their homes and families.

24 (3) It is the further intent of the legislature that these nursing homes shall be located in communities  
25 with:

26 (a) a labor pool large enough to ensure adequate and qualified staffing;

27 (b) sufficient medical facilities and medical professionals to provide necessary medical services; and

28 (c) if possible, an institution or institutions of higher learning with educational programs in disciplines

1 with relevance to the problems of aging.

2 (4) It is further the intent of the legislature to:

3 (a) end the involuntary commitment of individuals who have a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease,  
 4 dementia, or traumatic brain injury when those individuals meet only the commitment criteria of 53-21-126(1)(a)  
 5 or (1)(d)(i)(B); and

6 (b) develop, based on consultation and collaboration between providers and the department, services  
 7 in the community for those individuals."

8  
 9 **Section 4.** Section 53-21-402, MCA, is amended to read:

10 **"53-21-402. Powers and duties of department of public health and human services.** The  
 11 ~~department of public health and human services:~~

12 (1) shall contract with nonprofit corporations which demonstrate expertise in and the capability of  
 13 providing rehabilitative and restorative programs for aged citizens for the operation and management of nursing  
 14 homes established under this part;

15 (2) shall ensure that nursing homes established and operated under this part are in compliance with  
 16 all applicable federal and state regulations;

17 (3) shall adopt rules for staffing requirements and the admission of patients;

18 (4) shall provide that ~~geriatric residents of the Montana state hospital have~~ first priority for admission  
 19 to nursing homes established under this part be given to:

20 (a) Montana state hospital patients who are geriatric; and

21 (b) people with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or traumatic brain injury who:

22 (i) have been involuntarily committed to the Montana state hospital but no longer need the intensive  
 23 treatment provided by the hospital; or

24 (ii) are substantially unable to provide for their basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety;

25 (5) shall provide members of the transition review committee provided for in [section 6] with the  
 26 information necessary to carry out the committee's duties;

27 (b) shall implement, in consultation and collaboration with the transition review committee, a plan to  
 28 prepare for the end of involuntary commitment of many individuals with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's

1 disease, dementia, other dementias, or traumatic brain injury; and

2 ~~(5)(7)~~ may accept grants, gifts, bequests, and contributions in money or property or any other form  
3 from individuals, corporations, associations, or federal, state, and local government agencies for the purposes  
4 of establishing and operating nursing homes under this part."

5

6 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Placement of individuals with Alzheimer's disease, other dementias,  
7 or traumatic brain injury -- direction to department. To accomplish the intent of 51-21-401(4), the legislature  
8 directs the department to:

9 (1) by June 30, 2025, develop and implement a plan to ensure the availability of community-based  
10 services for individuals with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other dementias, or traumatic brain  
11 injury who might otherwise be at risk of involuntary commitment;

12 (2) collaborate with the transition review committee provided for in [section 6] to identify the community-  
13 based services needed to ensure that individuals with those diagnoses can be safely and effectively served in  
14 the community;

15 (3) transfer funds as authorized by 17-7-139, [section 8], and federal laws and regulations to develop  
16 the services needed in the community; and

17 (4) by June 30, 2025, transition out of the Montana state hospital and into community services the  
18 Montana state hospital patients whose primary diagnosis involves Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or traumatic  
19 brain injury and who meet only the commitment criteria of 53-21-126(1)(a) or (1)(d)(i)(B). As part of this  
20 transition, the legislature intends for the department to actively pursue the timely discharge of those Montana  
21 state hospital patients.

22

23 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Transition review committee -- membership -- meetings --

24 reimbursement. (1) There is a transition review committee to monitor the need for and progress in developing  
25 community-based services for individuals who have been or are at risk of being involuntarily committed to the  
26 Montana state hospital and who have a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other dementia, or traumatic  
27 brain injury.

28 (2) The committee shall consist of:



- 1 (a) four legislators appointed as provided in subsection (4); and
- 2 (b) seven members appointed by the governor or the governor's designee as follows:
- 3 (i) one representative of a statewide association whose primary purpose is representing skilled nursing
- 4 facilities and assisted living facilities;
- 5 (ii) one representative of the state protection and advocacy program for individuals with mental illness
- 6 authorized under 42 U.S.C. 10803;
- 7 (iii) one representative of a statewide association whose primary purpose is representing individuals
- 8 with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias;
- 9 (iv) one representative of a statewide association whose primary purpose is representing individuals
- 10 with traumatic brain injury;
- 11 (v) one physician with experience in geriatric psychiatry;
- 12 (vi) one family member or guardian of an individual who is or has, within the previous 5 years, been
- 13 committed to the Montana state hospital and whose diagnosis included Alzheimer's disease, another dementia,
- 14 or traumatic brain injury; and
- 15 (vii) one representative of the department of public health and human services.
- 16 (3) Appointments must be made no later than May 15, 2023.
- 17 (4) (a) Legislative members of the committee must, in consultation with the minority party, be appointed
- 18 as provided in this subsection (4).
- 19 (b) (i) The committee on committees shall appoint two members of the Montana senate, one from the
- 20 majority party and one from the minority party.
- 21 (ii) The speaker of the house shall appoint two members of the Montana house, one from the majority
- 22 party and one from the minority party.
- 23 (c) Two of the appointees must have served on the section b joint appropriations subcommittee, and
- 24 two of the appointees must have been members of the house human services committee or senate public
- 25 health, welfare, and safety committee.
- 26 (d) Legislative appointees to the committee may continue to serve on the committee if they are not
- 27 members of the 69th legislature.
- 28 (5) A vacancy on the committee must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

1 (6) The committee shall elect a presiding officer and vice presiding officer from among the legislative  
2 members of the committee.

3 (7) The committee shall meet quarterly during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and must be  
4 disbanded no later than June 30, 2025.

5 (8)(a) A legislative member of the committee is entitled to salary and expenses as provided in 5-2-302.

6 (b) A nonlegislative member of the committee is entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses as  
7 provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

8 (9) The legislative services division shall provide staff support to the committee.

9

10 **NEW SECTION. Section 7. Transition review committee duties -- reporting requirement.** (1) The  
11 transition review committee shall:

12 (a) hear regular reports from the department and, as necessary, the office of budget and program  
13 planning on:

14 (i) the number of Montana state hospital patients with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease,  
15 other dementias, or traumatic brain injury;

16 (ii) efforts the department is making to find community placements for individuals with those diagnoses,  
17 including any barriers to discharging the individuals from the Montana state hospital and the steps being taken  
18 to alleviate the barriers; and

19 (iii) activities being taken to identify and develop community-based services and transition into those  
20 services individuals with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or traumatic brain injury who  
21 meet only the commitment criteria of 53-21-126(1)(a) or (1)(d)(i)(B);

22 (b) hear reports from providers on matters related to serving individuals with Alzheimer's disease, other  
23 dementias, and traumatic brain injury, including but not limited to information on the resources needed for  
24 serving the individuals in the community and recommendations for meeting those needs;

25 (c) review, as needed, efforts undertaken in other states to reduce the involuntary commitment of  
26 individuals with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other dementias, or traumatic brain injury and  
27 identify practices in those states that may assist Montana in ending involuntary commitment of individuals with  
28 those diagnoses;

- 1 (d) advise the department of problems it is observing with the transition process; and
- 2 (e) make recommendations to the department and the legislature on potential solutions for alleviating
- 3 problems encountered in the transition process.

4 (2) The department reports on Montana state hospital patients required under subsection (1)(a)(i) must  
5 include, for each reporting period:

- 6 (a) the number of those patients admitted to the hospital;
- 7 (b) the number currently receiving treatment; and
- 8 (c) the number discharged.

9 (3) The committee shall report regularly to the children, families, health, and human services interim  
10 committee and at least once to the house human services committee and the senate public health, welfare, and  
11 safety committee of the 69th legislature on:

- 12 (a) its review of the department's efforts and progress in:
  - 13 (i) transitioning individuals from the Montana state hospital; and
  - 14 (ii) developing the community-based services needed to prepare for the end of involuntary commitment,  
15 by July 1, 2025, of individuals with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other dementias, or traumatic  
16 brain injury who meet only the commitment criteria of 53-21-126(1)(a) or (1)(d)(i)(B); and
- 17 (b) any recommendations for additional legislation needed to accomplish the purposes of and [sections  
18 5 through 9].

19  
20 **NEW SECTION. Section 8. Certain transfers of funds authorized.** Funds appropriated to the  
21 department for the operation of the Montana state hospital may be used for carrying out the purposes of  
22 [section 5] if:

- 23 (1) Montana state hospital patients are transferred to a community-based nursing home or other  
24 community setting that results in lower expenditures than allowed by legislative appropriation; and
- 25 (2) a transfer of appropriations between programs is:
  - 26 (a) made as provided in 17-7-139; and
  - 27 (b) approved by the governor.

28

