

February 23, 2021

2021-2022 Legislative Session

Legislative News is a publication prepared and distributed by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) Office of Public Affairs to keep you informed of bills introduced in the General Assembly that may affect the Agency, mental health, healthcare issues, or state employee issues. In addition, we will provide budget information and pertinent general news from the General Assembly. You can also access the complete text of each bill listed by clicking the link at the end of each description, or visiting www.scstatehouse.gov and searching them by bill number.

This publication is also available on the SCDMH Internet and Intranet sites. 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 2 Behavioral and Public Health – Peeler, Malloy, McElveen, Hembree, Senn (Similar H 3766)**
This bill would rename the Department of Health and Environmental Control the "Department of Behavioral and Public Health", make it a Cabinet agency, and transfer environmental responsibilities to the SC Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The bill would abolish the SCDMH and SC Mental Health Commission, as well as the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, and instead establish a Division of Mental Health and a Division of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services within the Department of Behavioral and Public Health.
Introduced, read first time, and referred to Medical Affairs Committee, 1/12/21.
- S 231 Student ID Card Suicide Prevention Act – Shealy, McLeod, Matthews (Similar H 3476)**
This bill would require public schools and public and private institutions of higher learning to add the telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to student ID cards, as well as appropriate telephone and text numbers for other hotlines.
Introduced, read first time, and referred to Education Committee, 1/12/21.
- S 259 Mental Health Transport – Kimpson**
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. Finally, the bill would extend the time a patient may be held under the doctor's certification when safe transport is not possible due to disasters or other conditions.
Introduced, read first time, and referred to Medical Affairs Committee, 1/12/21.

House Bills – click on the bill number for full text.

- H 3230 Telepsychiatry Reimbursement – Herbkersman, Hosey, and Caskey**
This bill would require the SC Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse practitioners for mental health services provided via telehealth to patients enrolled in Medicaid.
Introduced, read first time, and referred to Ways and Means Committee, 1/12/21.
- H 3773 Restoration Treatment – West, G.M. Smith, Weeks, White (Similar S 79)**
This bill would extend the length of time certain individuals unfit to stand trial may be hospitalized from 60 to 180 days. It would also allow the SCDMH to provide restoration treatment in detention centers and on an outpatient basis, where appropriate.
Introduced, read first time, and referred to Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee, 1/28/21.
- H 3888 Mental Health Study Committee – King, Bryant, Cobb-Hunter, Brawley**
This joint resolution would create a study committee to examine the state of mental health of South Carolina residents, to make certain findings, and prepare a report for the General Assembly before January 1, 2022.
Introduced, read first time, and referred to Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee 2/11/21.

Budget Update

SCDMH presented its FY 2022 Budget Request to the Governor's Office/Executive Budget Office 10/28/2020 and to the House Ways & Means Healthcare Subcommittee 1/27/2021.

The table below shows SCDMH's FY22 original budget request side-by-side with recommendations from the Governor's Office.

SCDMH FY22 BUDGET REQUEST	SCDMH Request	Governor's Rec.
RECURRING		
Forensic Services	\$3,698,874	-
Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program	\$3,550,731	\$2,000,000
State Veterans Nursing Homes	\$16,037,336	\$5,000,000
TOTAL RECURRING	\$23,286,941	\$7,000,000
NON-RECURRING		
School Mental Health \$1,500 Signing Bonus	-	\$600,000
TOTAL NON-RECURRING	-	\$600,000
CAPITAL		
Coastal-Empire HVAC, Sprinkler System, Fire Alarm & Roof	\$1,600,000	-
Crafts-Farrow Campus Electrical Distribution System	\$1,200,000	-
Harris Hospital Renovations (Anti-ligature)	\$6,005,645	-
Gaffney Building Purchase & Renovations	\$985,000	-
Crafts-Farrow Grease Trap Interceptor	\$388,000	-
Campbell Nursing Home Refrigerator & Freezer Replacement	\$100,000	-
Waccamaw CMH HVAC, Sprinkler System, Fire Alarm & Roof	\$1,600,000	-
Crafts-Farrow Fisher Auditorium & Library Demolition	\$250,000	-
Bryan Chilled Water Loop Branch Line Replacement	\$500,000	-
Crafts-Farrow Water Booster Pump Generator	\$155,000	-
Morris Village Sidewalks and Drainage	\$245,000	-
Bryan Energy Center Drainage	\$150,000	-
Roddey Phased Water Piping Replacement	\$202,000	-
Pee Dee MHC Boiler and Chiller Replacement	\$600,000	-
Aiken-Barnwell MHC HVAC Replacement	\$350,000	-
Anderson-Oconee-Pickens MHC Construction	\$12,430,000	-
Catawba MHC Construction	\$12,430,000	-
Campbell Veterans Nursing Home Renovations	\$3,940,000	-
Roddey Nursing Home Floor Replacement	\$1,000,000	-
Morris Village Nursing Station Renovations	\$450,000	-
Morris Village Infirmary	\$750,000	-
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$45,330,645	-
GRAND TOTAL REQUEST	\$68,617,586	\$7,600,000
Transfer Alzheimer's Funding to Department on Aging	(\$778,706)	(\$778,706)
Other Funds Authorization	\$36,000,000	\$36,000,000

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