

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-147

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3 REQUESTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND
4 LABOR STUDY, REVIEW, AND RECOMMEND PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURES TO
5 CREATE STANDARDIZATION AND CONSISTENCY WHEN TRANSPORTING
6 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PATIENTS IN A NONEMERGENCY SITUATION.
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8 WHEREAS, resources necessary for emergency medical services are being
9 utilized in transportation of nonemergency behavioral health patients and may
10 place the public in a precarious situation if a medical emergency arises
11 while personnel and equipment are involved in the nonemergency transportation
12 of a behavioral health patient; and
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14 WHEREAS, these nonemergency behavioral health transportation situations
15 can result in emergency medical services personnel and equipment being out of
16 their coverage area for long periods of time, leaving minimal resources to
17 cover an area in case of a true emergency situation; and
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19 WHEREAS, these nonemergency behavioral health transports take a toll on
20 emergency medical services personnel who are already overextended and nearing
21 the end of a shift; and
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23 WHEREAS, a study of possible solutions to the issues arising from the
24 use of emergency medical personnel and equipment to provide nonemergency
25 transportation for behavioral health patients is necessary; and
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27 WHEREAS, Act 1041 of 2019 created the "Task Force on Transportation of
28 Nonemergency Behavioral Health Patients"; and
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30 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Task Force on Transportation of
31 Nonemergency Behavioral Health Patients was to examine and identify areas of
32 needed reform with regard to the protocol, procedures, and mechanisms in
33 place for the nonemergency transportation of behavioral health patients to
34 behavioral health facilities; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Task Force on Transportation of Nonemergency Behavioral
2 Health Patients was required to:

3 (1) Study practices and protocols of other states with regard to
4 nonemergency transportation of behavioral health patients;

5 (2) Consult stakeholders and interested parties in the state
6 involved in the treatment and transportation of behavioral health patients;

7 (3) Develop best practices and recommended protocol, including
8 identifying areas of needed statutory or regulatory reform with regard to the
9 nonemergency transportation of behavioral health patients; and

10 (4) File a report on the task force's activities, findings, and
11 recommendations; and

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13 WHEREAS, Representative Perry and Senator Hickey chaired the Task Force
14 on Transportation of Nonemergency Behavioral Health Patients; and

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16 WHEREAS, on February 19, 2020, Representative Perry and Senator Hickey
17 gave a presentation to the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and
18 Labor, the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor, the Senate
19 Committee on Insurance and Commerce, and the House Committee on Insurance and
20 Commerce on the activities, findings, and recommendations of the Task Force
21 on Transportation of Nonemergency Behavioral Health Patients; and

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23 WHEREAS, during the February presentation, it was determined that
24 further study and review are needed on protocol and procedures to create
25 standardization and consistency when transporting behavioral health patients
26 in a nonemergency situation; and

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28 WHEREAS, the Task Force on Transportation of Nonemergency Behavioral
29 Health Patients expired on March 1, 2020; and

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31 WHEREAS, the General Assembly should further study and review the
32 complex topic of transportation of nonemergency behavioral health patients to
33 ensure the safety and welfare of the citizens of Arkansas,

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35 NOW THEREFORE,

1 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
2 OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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4 THAT the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study,
5 review, and recommend protocol and procedures to create standardization and
6 consistency when transporting behavioral health patients in a nonemergency
7 situation.

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9 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED:

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11 THAT Representative Perry and Senator Hickey, who served as chairs on
12 the expired Task Force on Transportation of Nonemergency Behavioral Health
13 Patients, as well as the former members of the expired Task Force on
14 Transportation of Nonemergency Behavioral Health Patients aid the Senate
15 Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor in studying, reviewing, and
16 recommending protocol and procedures to create standardization and
17 consistency when transporting behavioral health patients in a nonemergency
18 situation.

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22 Respectfully submitted,

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26 Senator Missy Irvin
27 District 18

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30 Prepared by: JMB/JMB
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