

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 85th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2005  
4

As Engrossed: S4/1/05 S4/5/05

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 1154

5 By: Senator J. Jeffress  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE TASK FORCE ON MENTAL HEALTH  
10 TREATMENT SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

### Subtitle

12 AN ACT TO CREATE THE TASK FORCE ON  
13 MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT SERVICES.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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19 SECTION 1. (a) There is created the "Task Force on Mental Health  
20 Treatment Services".

21 (b) The task force shall be composed of the following members:

22 (1) One (1) member of the Senate appointed by the President Pro  
23 Tempore of the Senate;

24 (2) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare  
25 and Labor; and

26 (3) One (1) member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
27 the Speaker of the House.

28 (c) The task force shall also have twenty (20) advisory members to be  
29 appointed by the task force chair as follows:

30 (1) One (1) member recommended by the Arkansas State Substance  
31 Abuse Treatment Providers Association;

32 (2) One (1) member recommended by the Arkansas Association of  
33 Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors;

34 (3) One (1) member recommended by the Division of Mental Health  
35 Services of the Department of Human Services;

36 (4) Four (4) members recommended by the Arkansas Coalition of



1 Private Treatment Providers of Mental Health;

2 (5) Two (2) members recommended by the Mental Health Council of  
3 Arkansas;

4 (6) One (1) member recommended by the Arkansas Advocates for  
5 Children and Families;

6 (7) One (1) member recommended by the Arkansas Hospital  
7 Association;

8 (8) One (1) member recommended by the Child and Adolescent  
9 Service System Program;

10 (9) One (1) member recommended by the Arkansas Mental Health  
11 Counselors Association;

12 (10) One (1) member recommended by NAMI-Arkansas;

13 (11) One (1) member recommended by the Arkansas School  
14 Counselors Association;

15 (12) One (1) member recommended by Arkansas Mental Health  
16 Planning and Advisory Council;

17 (13) Two (2) members recommended by National Association of  
18 Psychiatric Health Systems;

19 (14) One (1) member recommended by the state Medicaid program;  
20 and

21 (15) One (1) member recommended by the Bureau of Alcohol and  
22 Drug Abuse Prevention.

23 (d)(1) The terms of the legislative members of the task force shall  
24 expire on December 31 of each even numbered year.

25 (2) Advisory members shall serve at the pleasure of the  
26 organizations they represent.

27 (e) Vacancies on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as  
28 provided for in the initial appointment.

29 (f) The chair shall be one (1) of the legislative members of the task  
30 force and shall be selected by the legislative members of the task force.

31 (g)(1) The task force shall meet as often as is deemed necessary by  
32 the chair.

33 (2) The chair shall call the first meeting, which shall be held  
34 no later than sixty (60) days after the effective date of this act.

35 (h) The members of the task force shall serve without compensation and  
36 shall not receive per diem, mileage, or stipends.

1       (i) The task force shall receive staff support from the Bureau of  
2 Legislative Research.

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4       SECTION 2. (a) The purpose of the Task Force on Mental Health  
5 Treatment Services is to assess statewide delivery and funding of mental  
6 health treatment services.

7       (b) The task force will strive to achieve the following:

8               (1) Assess state mental health treatment needs and evaluate the  
9 current service delivery system and its capacity to respond to those current  
10 and projected treatment needs;

11              (2) Examine state interagency referral trends and continuity of  
12 care to include the identification of service duplication and service  
13 overlap;

14              (3) Determine accurate statewide service costs and identify more  
15 cost effective means for the delivery of mental health treatment services and  
16 the identification of available revenue streams, underutilized revenue, and  
17 uncaptured revenue;

18              (4) Carry out a cost-benefit analysis of mental health treatment  
19 services to include outcome benefits for the development of policy and  
20 procedure reform;

21              (5) Evaluate existing councils, coalitions, associations, and  
22 organizations that are concerned about mental health services in the State of  
23 Arkansas to determine whether there are collaborative opportunities to  
24 improve communications, partnerships, and problem solving for mental health  
25 issues in the State of Arkansas;

26              (6) Evaluate the outcomes, recommendations, and progress made as  
27 a result of the Governor's Mental Health System Task Force and past mental  
28 health work groups to determine whether further action needs to be taken; and

29              (7) Make recommendations for the strategic development and  
30 implementation of efficient and effective quality care measures.

31       (c)(1) The findings and recommendations of the task force shall be  
32 submitted to the legislative leaders, state department directors, state  
33 providers, and other appropriate parties for collaborative reform.

34              (2)(A) The task force shall report to the Legislative Council,  
35 the Senate Interim Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor, and the  
36 House Interim Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor.

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(B) The report shall be submitted no later than October 1 of each even numbered year.

(d) On request, the Department of Human Services and service providers operating under contract with the State of Arkansas shall provide to the Mental Health System Task Force information regarding service needs and funding through community and state based options to meet the needs of individuals.

/s/ J. Jeffress