

HOUSE BILL NO. 289

INTRODUCED BY J. ECK

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY STATE-OPERATED PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS SERVING INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS, INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES, AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY; AND PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION."

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health and Human Services operates public institutions that care for individuals in need, including individuals in need of treatment and services because of mental illness, intellectual disabilities, or chemical dependency; and

WHEREAS, facilities operated by the Department of Corrections serve a number of offenders whose treatment needs involve mental illness, intellectual disabilities, or chemical dependency; and

WHEREAS, the understanding of treatment options and the recovery process for these individuals continues to evolve; and

WHEREAS, the state may be able to more effectively serve individuals who have similar treatment needs if it reviews and reconfigures its system of public institutions.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Interim study of public institutions. (1) The law and justice interim

committee shall conduct an interim study of state-operated facilities that serve individuals with mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and chemical dependency to determine if changes to the current system of facilities could:

- (a) provide more effective treatment; and
- (b) serve individuals in a more cost-effective manner.

(2) The committee shall review operations at the Montana state hospital at Warm Springs, the Montana developmental center at Boulder, the Montana chemical dependency center at Butte, the Montana nursing care center at Lewistown, the Montana state prison at Deer Lodge, and the Montana women's prison at Billings.

(3) The committee shall review:

- (a) the populations served by each facility;
- (b) the services provided at each facility for treatment of mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and



1 chemical dependency;

2 (c) the degree to which treatment needs are unmet or underserved at each facility;

3 (d) the cost of operating each facility, including the costs of providing treatment for mental illness,
4 intellectual disabilities, and chemical dependency;

5 (e) barriers to providing necessary treatment at the facilities;

6 (f) the ways in which the facilities collaborate to meet treatment needs of the target populations;

7 (g) the projected long-term needs for the populations served by the facilities;

8 (h) alternative approaches to providing the services that may improve quality of care and increase
9 access to additional funding streams; and

10 (i) other items as identified by the committee.

11 (3) To the greatest extent possible, the study shall include tours of the state-operated facilities.

12 (4) The committee shall request the participation of the department of public health and human services,
13 the department of corrections, community mental health providers, providers of services to individuals with
14 intellectual disabilities and with substance abuse disorders, individuals who have received services in
15 state-operated facilities identified in this section and their family members, and representatives of law
16 enforcement, health care providers, health advocacy organizations, and other interested parties.

17 (5) All aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, must be concluded before
18 September 15, 2014. The committee shall report the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
19 and recommendations, to the 64th legislature.

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21 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the general fund to the
22 legislative services division \$8,100 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013. The money must be used by the law
23 and justice interim committee for expenses related to the report and travel requirements of the study provided
24 for in [section 1], including legislator pay for travel required outside of regular committee meeting days.

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