

2024 -- H 8117

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LC005829
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND
HOSPITALS -- DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Introduced By: Representatives Cotter, Casimiro, Spears, Speakman, and Donovan

Date Introduced: March 29, 2024

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 40.1-21 of the General Laws entitled "Division of Developmental
2 Disabilities" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **40.1-21-19. Social caseworker caseload.**

4 (a) There shall be a workload study conducted by the director of the department of
5 behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals ("BHDDH") in order to determine
6 the optimal caseload limits for social caseworkers II in the division of developmental disabilities
7 unit of BHDDH.

8 (b) The study shall be completed with a report back to the general assembly by January 15,
9 2025. The study shall include:

10 (1) A scientific time measurement of what duties the social caseworkers II actually
11 perform;

12 (2) Determining a set of minimum essential workload standards based on federal, state, and
13 local mandates;

14 (3) Developing a set of optional, best practices standards;

15 (4) Calculating staffing needs to fulfill these essential and best practice standards;

16 (5) Projecting needs based on caseload growth and plans to fulfill unmet service needs; and

17 (6) Ensuring caseloads achieve positive outcomes for clients served as well as considering
18 worker turnover.

1 (c) Until such time as the study is completed, the caseload limit for social caseworkers II
2 shall be one hundred fifty (150) clients per social caseworker II. Within thirty (30) days of
3 enactment, BHDDH shall begin posting new social caseworker II positions to reduce the caseloads
4 to not more than one hundred fifty (150) clients per social caseworker II.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND
HOSPITALS -- DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

1 This act would create a workload study for social caseworkers II in the division of
2 developmental disabilities within the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental
3 disabilities and hospitals (BHDDH). The results of the study would be reported to the general
4 assembly. Until such time as the study is completed, the caseload limit would be one hundred fifty
5 (150) clients per social caseworker II.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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