

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB1021
Version:	INT
Request Number:	5945
Author:	Rep. Worthen
Date:	2/3/2021
Impact:	\$3,465,589

Research Analysis

HB 1021 requires law enforcement officers to utilize telemedicine, when available, to have an individual whom the officer reasonably believes is requiring treatment, assessed by a licensed mental health professional employed by or under contract with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS).

Law enforcement officers are responsible for transporting individuals to the nearest designated site or facility upon initial contact, defined as contact with an individual in need of examination, emergency detention, or protective custody by a law enforcement officer.

After an individual has either self-presented or been brought to a treatment facility by law enforcement, the measure removes the responsibility of transporting the individual from the law enforcement officer and places it with the DMHSAS.

Lastly, the measure allows the DMHSAS to enter into certain agreements to fulfill their requirements if the third party being contracted meets minimum standards determined by the DMHSAS.

Prepared By: Dan Brooks

Fiscal Analysis

Per ODMHSAS, law enforcement makes the first transport. No return/ follow-up transport of consumer is made by law enforcement. ODMHSAS must make return/ follow-up trip for all consumers. The total number of transports are reduced by 67% for telehealth and 50% for consumers that are too violent/ dangerous/ to self or others.

*Prior studies, especially in the VA specifically on this topic, estimates that in 50% of transports the consumer is too violent/ dangerous for non-law enforcement to transport.

Telehealth assessments should be completed prior to transport, thus allowing individuals to be screened out if they do not meet criteria and advert the transport. Telehealth services increased by 970% between FY20 and FY19 and are estimated increase to another 140% in FY21.

Prepared By: Stacy Johnson

Other Considerations

None.

