

ANALYSIS OF HOUSE BILL 2520

Changing terminology in the release from commitment of persons in mental treatment facilities.

SPONSORS: Representatives Schual-Berke and Parlette.

BACKGROUND: Individuals are committed to state mental hospitals through legal procedures in superior court. Once admitted, a physician is involved in medical decisions related to the care of the individual. Terms used in the legal system and the medical system are not consistently used. The potential for confusion exists for such terms as "admission", "discharge", "detention", "commitment", and "release".

SUMMARY: A consistent set of legal and medical terms involving individuals served in state mental hospitals will be used. Potential confusion involving individuals' legal, medical, and financial status will be clarified.