

HB 1894 -- OVERDUE PATIENT ACCOUNTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

SPONSOR: Bringer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 12 to 0.

Currently, an overdue patient account submitted to a court for collection must be certified by the head of a residential facility or day program, with the seal of the institution attached, in order to constitute prima facie evidence of the amount due. This bill requires the certification to be completed by the Director of the Department of Mental Health or his or her designee instead of the head of the facility or program.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that a court recently found that the department's current practice does not conform with the procedure in statutes. The bill makes the department's actions consistent with the statutes.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Burnett for Representative Bringer; and Department of Mental Health.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.