

HB 1894 -- MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Currently, public hospitals which are operated primarily for the care and treatment of mental disorders are exempt from the payment of a federal hospital reimbursement allowance for the privilege of engaging in the business of providing inpatient health care in this state. This bill removes this exemption.

The Department of Mental Health is required to cooperate with and is allowed to directly contract with all state agencies; local units of government; any of the Governor's advisory councils or commissions, or their successor agencies; and the Missouri Mental Health Foundation, or its successor entity, in the delivery of programs designed to improve public understanding of attitudes toward mental disorders, developmental disabilities, and alcohol and drug abuse.

Currently, an overdue patient account of a residential facility or day program under the control of the department which is submitted to a court for collection must be certified by the head of the residential facility or day program, with the seal of the institution attached, in order to constitute prima facie evidence of the amount due. The bill requires the certification to be completed by the department director or his or her designee instead of the head of the facility or program.