

February 2, 1955.
Public Health, Pharmacy.

House File 210
By DENMAN, PETRUCCELLI, KOSEK,
MILLER of Black Hawk, DIETZ, and
SANTEE (Schroeder).

Passed House, Date.....
Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....
Passed Senate, Date.....
Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....
Approved

A BILL FOR

An Act to establish the Iowa Mental Health Authority and to amend section two hundred twenty-five point six (225.6), Code 1954, relating to the duties of the director of the psychopathic hospital in respect to said authority, and making an appropriation therefor.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

This is a Companion Bill; for complete text see Senate File 56.

EXPLANATION OF H. F. 210

Legislation will be introduced in the Fifty-sixth General Assembly providing for state funds to extend community clinics in Iowa. Seven community clinics located in Des Moines, Waverly, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Burlington and Keokuk have been organized and sponsored by the Iowa Mental Health Authority with grants from federal funds. These clinics are financed also by county tax funds, Community Chests and private funds. The Mental Health Authority in the past has been entirely supported by federal funds which in 1950 reached \$75,000. These funds have been reduced to \$34,500 for the current year. The State Board of Education, which supports Psychopathic Hospital, under whose supervision the Iowa Mental Health Authority operates, formally approved on October 15, 1954, this legislative action.

With an appropriation of \$50,000 a year, a mobile clinic can serve other areas such as western, northern or southern Iowa, and also extend services of existing clinics. Psychiatric clinics are staffed with a psychiatrist, psychiatric social worker and a psychologist. Such clinics are the first line of defense in preventing mental illness. Treatment in the local community may avoid later long time treatment in an institution. Last year these clinics, including the outpatient clinic of Psychopathic Hospital, gave service to 3,120 patients.

This program is entirely preventive, providing for treatment in the local communities and mental health education through pamphlets, films and institutes. In the long run, state funds for preventing mental illness will be a saving in taxes and the later loss in earning and human values.

