

**House File 263 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 263

BY HEATON

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the development and initial implementation  
2 of an inpatient psychiatric bed tracking system by the  
3 department of human services.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC BED TRACKING SYSTEM —  
2 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES. The department of human services  
3 shall expend the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or so  
4 much thereof as is necessary, for the fiscal year beginning  
5 July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016, to be used for the  
6 development and initial implementation of an inpatient  
7 psychiatric bed tracking system in accordance with this  
8 section.

9 1. In developing the requirements for procurement of the  
10 system, the department of human services shall engage the  
11 group of magistrates and hospital personnel that assisted the  
12 department in developing the hospital bed tracking system  
13 report submitted to the general assembly in December 2013,  
14 pursuant to 2013 Iowa Acts, chapter 130, section 56. The  
15 department shall also engage representatives of other portions  
16 of the mental health system, including representatives of the  
17 regional mental health and disability services system, the  
18 state mental health institutes, the Iowa behavioral health  
19 association, and the Iowa association of community providers.  
20 The procedural issues addressed by the group shall include  
21 but are not limited to the responsibility for data entry  
22 and verification, timeliness of data entry, confidentiality  
23 requirements associated with the data needed to ensure the  
24 usefulness of the system, and key characteristics and capacity  
25 information about the beds in the system.

26 2. The department shall base the procurement requirements  
27 on the recommendation option contained in the December 2013  
28 report that projected the lowest annual maintenance and  
29 operating costs rather than the other option.

30 3. Upon a court-ordered mental health commitment, the  
31 clerk of the district court shall utilize the electronic  
32 tracking system, once in place, to enter information into the  
33 system relating to the court order, check the database for  
34 the availability of open inpatient psychiatric hospital beds,  
35 and, if available, specify the inpatient psychiatric hospital

1 bed in the facility or institution to which a patient who is  
2 the subject of the mental health commitment order should be  
3 assigned.

4 EXPLANATION

5 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
6 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

7 This bill relates to the development and initial  
8 implementation of an inpatient psychiatric bed tracking system.  
9 The bill directs the department of human services to expend  
10 \$200,000 for fiscal year 2015-2016 for the development and  
11 initial implementation of an inpatient psychiatric bed tracking  
12 system. In developing the requirements for procurement of  
13 the system, the department is required to engage the group of  
14 magistrates and hospital personnel that assisted the department  
15 in developing the hospital bed tracking system report submitted  
16 to the general assembly in December 2013 (2013 Iowa Acts,  
17 chapter 130, section 56) along with representatives of the  
18 regional mental health and disability services system, the  
19 state mental health institutes, the Iowa behavioral health  
20 association, and the Iowa association of community providers.  
21 The procedural issues addressed by the group shall include  
22 but are not limited to the responsibility for data entry  
23 and verification, timeliness of data entry, confidentiality  
24 requirements, and key characteristics and capacity information  
25 about the beds in the system.  
26 The bill provides that upon a court-ordered mental health  
27 commitment, the clerk of the district court shall utilize the  
28 electronic tracking system, once in place, to enter information  
29 into the system relating to the court order, check the database  
30 for the availability of open inpatient psychiatric hospital  
31 beds, and, if available, specify the inpatient psychiatric  
32 hospital bed in the facility or institution to which a patient  
33 who is the subject of the mental health commitment order should  
34 be assigned.