

House File 510 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 510
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 251)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the transportation of persons with a
2 substance-related disorder or a mental illness.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 125.56 **Transportation services.**

2 1. A county may contract with a private entity to
3 appropriately transport any of the following persons:

4 a. A person admitted to a facility pursuant to section
5 125.33.

6 b. A person taken into custody pursuant to section 125.81
7 and court-ordered to a hospital or facility as described in
8 section 125.81, subsection 2, paragraph "b" or "c".

9 2. If the hospital or facility determines that a person
10 is in need of commitment or treatment at another hospital or
11 facility, such a private entity shall appropriately transport
12 the person to another hospital or facility.

13 3. A county's contract with such a private entity is
14 independent of the county's or a mental health and disability
15 services region's role as a provider of mental health services.

16 4. In contracting with a private entity, a county shall
17 include provisions to ensure all of the following:

18 a. The provision of trained personnel and the use of
19 appropriate vehicles for the safe and secure transportation
20 of respondents, which may include but is not limited to
21 vehicles equipped with a safety barrier between the driver and
22 patient, safety lock windows and doors, security cameras, and
23 appropriate medical equipment.

24 b. That the person's insurance carriers and other programs,
25 both public and private, that provide payment for such
26 transportation services are fully utilized to the maximum
27 extent possible.

28 5. A county shall implement a request for proposals process
29 to enter into a contract with a private entity for the purpose
30 of transporting a person pursuant to this section.

31 6. The departments of human services and public health,
32 in consultation with affected stakeholders including but not
33 limited to mental health and disability services regions, the
34 Iowa state association of counties, the Iowa state sheriffs'
35 and deputies' association, and other law enforcement agencies

1 in this state, shall adopt rules as necessary in accordance
2 with best practices for the implementation and administration
3 of this section.

4 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **229.46 Transportation services.**

5 1. A mental health and disability services region, as
6 defined in section 225C.2, may contract with a private entity
7 to appropriately transport any of the following persons:

8 a. A person admitted to a public or private hospital
9 pursuant to section 229.2.

10 b. A person taken into custody pursuant to section 229.11
11 and court-ordered to a hospital or facility as described in
12 section 229.11, subsection 1, paragraph "b" or "c".

13 2. If the hospital or facility determines that a person
14 is in need of commitment or treatment at another hospital or
15 facility, such a private entity shall appropriately transport
16 the person to another hospital or facility.

17 3. A mental health and disability services region's
18 contract with such a private entity is independent of the
19 region's role as a provider of mental health services.

20 4. In contracting with a private entity, a region shall
21 include provisions to ensure all of the following:

22 a. The provision of trained personnel and the use of
23 appropriate vehicles for the safe and secure transportation
24 of respondents, which may include but is not limited to
25 vehicles equipped with a safety barrier between the driver and
26 patient, safety lock windows and doors, security cameras, and
27 appropriate medical equipment.

28 b. That the person's insurance carriers and other programs,
29 both public and private, that provide payment for such
30 transportation services are fully utilized to the maximum
31 extent possible.

32 5. A mental health and disability services region shall
33 implement a request for proposals process to enter into a
34 contract with a private entity for the purpose of transporting
35 a person pursuant to this section.

1 6. The departments of human services and public health,
2 in consultation with affected stakeholders including but not
3 limited to mental health and disability services regions, the
4 Iowa state association of counties, the Iowa state sheriffs'
5 and deputies' association, and other law enforcement agencies
6 in this state, shall adopt rules as necessary in accordance
7 with best practices for the implementation and administration
8 of this section.

9 EXPLANATION

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

12 This bill relates to the transportation of persons with a
13 substance-related disorder or a mental illness.

14 The bill directs a county or a mental health and disability
15 services region as defined in Code section 225C.2, as
16 appropriate, to contract with private entities to appropriately
17 transport a person who is admitted, on a voluntary basis,
18 to a facility or hospital under Code section 125.33
19 (substance-related disorders) or 229.2 (mental illness) or who
20 is the subject of an immediate involuntary custody order to
21 the nearest available facility licensed to care for persons
22 with substance abuse or mental illness or a public or private
23 hospital. If the facility or hospital determines that a person
24 is in need of commitment treatment at another facility or
25 hospital, the private entity is required to make arrangements
26 to appropriately transport the person to another facility
27 or hospital. A county's or a mental health and disability
28 services region's contract with a private entity is independent
29 of the county's or region's role as a provider of mental health
30 services. In contracting with a private entity, a county or
31 a mental health and disability services region is required
32 to include provisions relating to appropriately trained
33 personnel and the use of appropriate vehicles for the safe and
34 secure transportation of respondents, and fully utilizing the
35 respondents' insurance carriers and other programs, both public

1 and private, that provide payment for such transportation
2 services, to the maximum extent possible.

3 A county or a mental health and disability services region
4 is required to implement a request for proposals process to
5 enter into a contract with a private entity for the purpose of
6 transporting a person pursuant to the bill. The department of
7 human services and the department of public health may adopt
8 administrative rules to administer the bill's provisions.