

**Senate File 308 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 308

BY TAYLOR

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the state mental health institutes at

2 Clarinda and Mount Pleasant.

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

1 Section 1. CLARINDA AND MOUNT PLEASANT MENTAL HEALTH  
2 INSTITUTES.

3 1. The department of human services shall accept all  
4 eligible patients into the state mental health institutes at  
5 Mount Pleasant and Clarinda through June 30, 2015.

6 2. The department of human services shall not close the  
7 state mental health institutes at Mount Pleasant and Clarinda  
8 after June 30, 2015, until a suitable and appropriate,  
9 comprehensive and long-term care and treatment plan is  
10 developed by the department of human services and approved  
11 by the general assembly. Until such a comprehensive plan is  
12 developed by the department of human services and approved by  
13 the general assembly, the department shall ensure that the  
14 diagnostic and treatment service needs of patients served  
15 through the acute inpatient psychiatric mental health and  
16 geropsychiatric programs at the state mental health institute  
17 at Clarinda and through the psychiatric and substance abuse  
18 recovery programs operated at the state mental health institute  
19 at Mount Pleasant continue to be met at those institutes.

20 3. In developing a comprehensive plan pursuant to  
21 subsection 1, the department of human services shall work with  
22 key stakeholders including but not limited to the departments  
23 of public health and inspections and appeals, members of the  
24 general assembly, psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health  
25 and drug abuse counselors, nurses, activity specialists, social  
26 workers, and residential treatment workers to ensure all of the  
27 following:

28 a. That each and every patient currently being served at the  
29 state mental health institutes at Clarinda and Mount Pleasant  
30 continues to be served during any transition period without  
31 sacrificing access to and quality of treatment and care.

32 b. That clinical and professional expertise currently in  
33 place at the state mental health institutes at Clarinda and  
34 Mount Pleasant relating to serious mental illness including  
35 geropsychiatric and co-occurring mental health and substance

1 abuse disorders is shared with other state mental health  
2 institutes and community-based providers through professional  
3 training and case consultation.

4 c. That recruitment, training, and staffing of direct  
5 health care workers to serve as personal attendants, respite  
6 care workers, home health aides, and a wide variety of other  
7 direct support staff in both institutional and community-based  
8 settings are adequately supported and compensated.

9 d. That appropriate funding, including Medicaid  
10 reimbursement methods and transitional funding, is in place  
11 prior to implementation of the comprehensive plan.

12 4. The department of human services shall be responsible  
13 for identifying and securing appropriate in-state placements  
14 for patients currently being served at the state mental health  
15 institutes at Clarinda and Mount Pleasant equivalent to the  
16 level of care each patient received through June 30, 2015.

17 EXPLANATION

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

20 This bill prohibits the department of human services from  
21 closing the state mental health institutes at Mount Pleasant  
22 and Clarinda until a suitable and appropriate comprehensive  
23 and long-term care and treatment plan is developed by the  
24 department and approved by the general assembly to ensure that  
25 the diagnostic and treatment service needs of patients served  
26 through the acute inpatient psychiatric mental health and  
27 geropsychiatric programs at the state mental health institute  
28 at Clarinda and the psychiatric and substance abuse recovery  
29 programs operated at the state mental health institute at Mount  
30 Pleasant are met. The bill requires the department to work  
31 with key stakeholders to ensure that each and every patient  
32 currently being served at the state mental health institutes at  
33 Clarinda and Mount Pleasant continue to be served during any  
34 transition period without sacrificing access to and quality of  
35 treatment and care; that expertise relating to serious mental

1 illness including geropsychiatric and co-occurring mental  
2 health and substance abuse disorders is shared with other state  
3 mental health institutions and community-based providers; that  
4 recruitment, training, and staffing of direct health care  
5 workers are adequately supported and compensated; and that  
6 appropriate funding, including Medicaid reimbursement methods  
7 and transitional funding, is in place prior to implementation  
8 of the comprehensive plan.