

House File 50 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 50
BY HEDDENS and HEATON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to reports filed with the court by mental
2 health advocates for persons with mental health disorders.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 229.19, subsection 1, paragraph d,
2 subparagraph (6), Code 2017, is amended to read as follows:

3 (6) To file with the court ~~quarterly reports, and additional~~
4 reports as the advocate feels necessary or as required by the
5 court, in a form prescribed by the court. The reports shall
6 state what actions the advocate has taken with respect to each
7 patient and the amount of time spent.

8

EXPLANATION

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

11 Under current law, a mental health advocate is required to
12 file quarterly reports with the court and additional reports
13 as the advocate feels necessary. A mental health advocate is
14 appointed by the county board of supervisors in each county to
15 represent the interests of a patient involuntarily hospitalized
16 under Code chapter 229.

17 This bill amends current law to require a mental health
18 advocate to file reports only when the advocate feels a report
19 is necessary or a report is required by the court.