

House File 235 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 235

BY JACOBY

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for a study regarding the possible
2 establishment of a jail diversion program for offenders with
3 a mental illness.

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

1 Section 1. JAIL DIVERSION PROGRAM FOR OFFENDERS WITH
2 A MENTAL ILLNESS — STUDY. The division of criminal and
3 juvenile justice planning of the department of human rights
4 shall conduct a study regarding the possible establishment
5 of a jail diversion program for the purpose of reducing
6 jail recidivism rates for nonviolent criminal offenders who
7 suffer from mental illness. The division shall solicit input
8 from the department of human services; the department of
9 corrections and other members of the criminal justice system
10 including judges, prosecutors, and defense counsel; specially
11 trained law enforcement crisis intervention teams and crisis
12 intervention response teams; and the Iowa association of
13 community providers, the Iowa behavioral health association,
14 and other mental health service providers including providers
15 of crisis stabilization services and providers of integrated
16 mental health and substance abuse inpatient, outpatient, and
17 rehabilitation services.

18 The study shall consider and review social, clinical,
19 housing, and welfare services currently available and services
20 that should be developed to meet the needs of nonviolent
21 criminal offenders who suffer from mental illness. The system
22 elements addressed by the study shall also include but are not
23 limited to regulatory, liability, and funding issues. The
24 division shall establish the membership, scope, and duties of
25 the study committee and shall also consider the feasibility
26 of establishing a jail diversion pilot program. The division
27 shall submit a report on the study and make recommendations to
28 the governor and the general assembly by December 15, 2019.

29

EXPLANATION

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

32 This bill directs the division of criminal and juvenile
33 justice planning of the department of human rights to conduct a
34 study regarding the possible establishment of a jail diversion
35 program for offenders with a mental illness for the purpose

H.F. 235

1 of reducing jail recidivism rates for nonviolent criminal
2 offenders who suffer from mental illness. The bill requires
3 the division to work with interested stakeholders including
4 representatives from the department of human services, the
5 department of corrections and other members of the criminal
6 justice system, certain specially trained law enforcement
7 personnel, and mental health providers. The study shall
8 consider and review social, clinical, housing, and welfare
9 services and shall also consider regulatory, liability, and
10 funding issues. The division is required to submit a report
11 with recommendations to the governor and the general assembly
12 by December 15, 2019.