

House File 2555 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2555
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2151)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the formation of mental health and
- 2 disability services regions.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES —
2 REGIONALIZATION AUTHORIZATION.

3 1. Upon receiving a request from any county within the
4 county social services mental health and disability services
5 region to be removed from the region, the director of human
6 services may authorize the county to join with other counties
7 requesting to be removed from the county social services mental
8 health and disability services region in the formation of a
9 proposed new mental health and disability services region.

10 2. County formation of a proposed new mental health and
11 disability services region pursuant to this section is subject
12 to all of the following:

13 a. The aggregate population of all counties forming
14 the region is at least 50,000 and includes at least one
15 incorporated city with a population of more than 24,000. For
16 purposes of this subparagraph, "population" means the same as
17 defined in section 331.388, subsection 4, Code 2020.

18 b. Notwithstanding section 331.389, subsection 4, on or
19 before February 1, 2021, the counties forming the region have
20 complied with section 331.389, subsection 3, and all of the
21 following additional requirements:

22 (1) The board of supervisors of each county forming the
23 region has voted to approve a chapter 28E agreement.

24 (2) The duly authorized representatives of all the counties
25 forming the region have signed a chapter 28E agreement that is
26 in compliance with section 331.392 and 441 IAC 25.14.

27 (3) The county board of supervisors' or supervisors'
28 designee members and other members of the region's governing
29 board are appointed in accordance with section 331.390.

30 (4) Executive staff for the region's regional administrator
31 are identified or engaged.

32 (5) The regional service management plan is developed in
33 accordance with section 331.393 and 441 IAC 25.18 and 441 IAC
34 25.21 and is submitted to the department.

35 (6) The initial regional service management plan shall

1 identify the service provider network for the region, identify
2 the information technology and data management capacity to be
3 employed to support regional functions, and establish business
4 functions, accounting procedures, and other administrative
5 processes.

6 c. Each county forming the region shall submit the
7 compliance information required in paragraph "b" to the
8 director of human services on or before February 1, 2021.
9 Within forty-five days of receipt of such information, the
10 director of human services shall determine if the region is in
11 full compliance and shall approve the region if the region has
12 met all of the requirements of this section.

13 d. The director of human services shall work with a county
14 making a request under this section that has not agreed or
15 is unable to join the proposed new region to resolve issues
16 preventing the county from joining the proposed new region.

17 e. By February 1, 2021, the director of human services
18 shall assign a county making a request under this section that
19 has not reached an agreement to be part of the proposed new
20 region to an existing region or to another new proposed region,
21 consistent with this section.

22 3. If approved by the department, the region shall commence
23 full operations no later than July 1, 2021.

24 EXPLANATION

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

27 This bill relates to the formation of mental health and
28 disability services regions.

29 The bill provides that upon receiving a request from any
30 county within a county social services mental health and
31 disability services region to be removed from the region, the
32 director of the department of human services may authorize the
33 county to join with other counties requesting to be removed
34 from the county social services mental health and disability
35 services region in the formation of a proposed new mental

1 health and disability services region, subject to certain
2 requirements including that the aggregate population of all
3 counties forming the region is at least 50,000 and includes
4 at least one incorporated city with a population of more than
5 24,000 and the counties forming the region must have complied
6 with additional criteria as specified in the bill, including
7 the counties comprising the region are contiguous, the region
8 must contain at least three counties, the region has the
9 capacity to provide core services and required functions, the
10 region must be qualified to provide psychiatric services, and
11 the region has a hospital with an inpatient psychiatric unit
12 or state mental health institute in the region or within close
13 proximity.

14 The bill provides that each county forming the region
15 shall submit the compliance information to the director of
16 the department of human services on or before February 1,
17 2021. Within 45 days of receipt of such information, the
18 director shall determine if the region is in full compliance
19 and shall approve the region if the region has met all of the
20 requirements of the bill.

21 The bill directs the director of the department of human
22 services to work with a county making a request that has not
23 agreed or is unable to join the proposed new region to resolve
24 issues preventing the county from joining the proposed new
25 region. By February 1, 2021, the director shall assign a
26 county making a request under the bill that has not reached an
27 agreement to be part of the proposed new region to an existing
28 region or to another new proposed region. If approved by the
29 department of human services, the region shall commence full
30 operations no later than July 1, 2021.