

	<p>STATE of RHODE ISLAND Executive Department GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court Cranston, RI 02920-3049 [voice] (401) 462-0110 [tty] via RI Relay 711 [fax] 462-0106 [e-mail] elisabeth.hubbard@gcd.ri.gov [website] www.disabilities.ri.gov</p>
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Legislative Impact Statement

To: Representative Donovan, Chair
From: Elisabeth K. Hubbard, Executive Secretary
Re: 26 HOUSE 7919 AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS -- MENTAL HEALTH LAW

Thursday, March 12, 2026

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Legislation Committee has developed a Legislative Impact Statement on the bill listed below. The Commission would be pleased to present testimony to the committee. Please contact me (462-0110) if testimony is desired or for additional information.

By Representative Furtado

Legislation Committee finds this bill Beneficial

Last year the State entered into a consent decree with the United States Department of Justice after a federal investigation that children in state care were unnecessarily hospitalized due to the lack of resources for children with behavioral health needs in the community. As a consequence of the consent decree, that state is required to increase available community-based services such as intensive in-home services, therapeutic foster care and mobile crisis response and Crisis Prevention, Intervention & Stabilization services. In addition, the state is required to provide accurate and timely information to families regarding available community-based services.

This bill would require the department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals to create and publish a statewide guide to the youth behavioral health system in furtherance of this goal. We support it as services are only beneficial to the community if the community is aware that they are available. This will not only increase parent and guardian awareness and thus ensure more children receive treatment and stay within the community rather than an institution. Offering information about the range of options will also help parents and guardians select the best option for their children.

Rico Vota, Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs

