



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

Legislative Impact Statement

To: Senator Murray, Chair

From: Elisabeth K. Hubbard, Executive Secretary

Re: 26 SENATE 3066 AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS -- MENTAL HEALTH LAW

Tuesday, March 24, 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 Senator Lawson

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, in particular the Department of Childre, Youth and Families (DCYF), 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.

The consent decree requires that:

- a. Mobile Crisis Response to be available for all children experiencing a behavioral health crisis under the age of 21
- b. Mobile Crisis Response to respond in person within 60 minutes at the location where a crisis arises
- c. Mobile Crisis Response attempts to resolve a crisis by reducing or eliminating immediate stressors and de-escalating behaviors and interactions

d. Mobile Crisis Response teams work with local law enforcement officials to inform them of their services and establish supplementary policies and protocols to coordinate work.

DCYF has been actively working to implement the requirements of the consent decree. This bill would provide them with the authority to ensure that these services happen, and that children are able to remain in the community.

Rico Vota, Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs