



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 369

Chairperson: Joel Johnson
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: February 22, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 369 redefines mental health practice to include diagnosing major mental illness or disorder, using psychotherapy with individuals suspected of having major mental or emotional disorders, and using psychotherapy to treat the concomitants of organic illness, with or without consultation with a qualified physician or psychologist.

Under current law, Licensed Mental Health Practitioners (LMHPs) are required to refer patients with serious mental illness or disorder to a psychologist or a psychiatrist for diagnosis and treatment. These oversight provisions often result in lengthy delays and impede the timely delivery of care to those who need them.

This bill makes necessary changes to improve patient access to care by permitting qualified mental health practitioners to provide independent services to individuals with a serious mental illness or disorder.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Philip Erdman