



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 882

Chairperson: Joel Johnson
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: January 30, 2008

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

LB 882 was requested by the Department of Health and Human Services and relates to the so-called "LB 95 drug program" (LB 95, 1981). The program provides necessary prescription mental health drugs to indigent persons upon discharge from mental-health-board-ordered treatment (section 83-380.01).

The bill clarifies that the program applies to persons discharged from both inpatient and outpatient treatment. The bill would no longer permit an affidavit requesting prescription drugs under the program to be filed with the mental health board, but only with the department.

The bill requires the department to review submitted affidavits to determine if the patient qualifies as an indigent person and that the prescription medicine requested is appropriate for treatment of mental illness. The patient must supply sufficient financial information to enable the department to make a determination whether the patient is indigent and the patient's ability to pay.

The department, when necessary, is permitted to contact with a licensed pharmacy to provide requested medication, to insure the patient's access to such medication.

The department is specifically authorized to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations relating to the definition of indigent person, standards of ability to pay, and types of medication to be dispensed under the program.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Joel T. Johnson