

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 625**

Introduced by Krist, 10; Pansing Brooks, 28.

Read first time January 21, 2015

Committee: Judiciary

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to behavioral health services; to adopt the
- 2 Interstate Placement for Involuntarily Admitted Patients Agreement
- 3 Act.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
2 Interstate Placement for Involuntarily Admitted Patients Agreement Act.

3           Sec. 2. For purposes of the Interstate Placement for Involuntarily  
4 Admitted Patients Agreement Act:

5           (1) Authorized state means Iowa, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado,  
6 Kansas, Missouri, or Minnesota;

7           (2) Behavioral health services has the definition found in section  
8 71-804;

9           (3) Health care facility has the definition found in section 71-413;

10           (4) Receiving agency means a public or private health care facility  
11 which provides behavioral health services under the act to individuals  
12 from a state other than the state in which the facility is located;

13           (5) Receiving state means the state in which a receiving agency is  
14 located;

15           (6) Region means a behavioral health region established pursuant to  
16 section 71-807;

17           (7) Sending agency means a state or county agency which sends an  
18 individual to an authorized state for behavioral health services under  
19 the act; and

20           (8) Sending state means the state in which the sending agency is  
21 located.

22           Sec. 3.   (1) The purpose of the Interstate Placement for  
23 Involuntarily Admitted Patients Agreement Act is to enable appropriate  
24 behavioral health services to be provided to individuals, across state  
25 lines from the individual's state of residence, in qualified health care  
26 facilities that are closer to the homes of individuals than are health  
27 care facilities available in the individual's home state.

28           (2) Unless prohibited by another law and subject to the exceptions  
29 listed in section 4 of this act, a region or the chief executive officer  
30 of the Department of Health and Human Services may contract with a health  
31 care facility in an authorized state for behavioral health services for

1 residents of Nebraska, and the health care facility in Nebraska may  
2 contract to provide services to residents of authorized states. Except as  
3 provided in section 6 of this act, a person who receives behavioral  
4 health services in another state under the act is subject to the laws of  
5 the state in which the services are provided. A person who will receive  
6 behavioral health services in another state under the act shall be  
7 informed of the consequences of receiving the services in another state,  
8 including the implications of the differences in state laws, to the  
9 extent the individual will be subject to the laws of the receiving state.

10       Sec. 4. A contract may not be entered into under the Interstate  
11 Placement for Involuntarily Admitted Patients Agreement Act for  
12 behavioral health services for persons who:

- 13       (1) Are serving a sentence after conviction of a criminal offense;  
14       (2) Are on probation or parole;  
15       (3) Are the subject of a presentence investigation; or  
16       (4) Have been committed involuntarily in Nebraska under the Nebraska  
17 Mental Health Commitment Act except as provided in section 6 of this act.

18       Sec. 5. Contracts entered into under the Interstate Placement for  
19 Involuntarily Admitted Patients Agreement Act shall, at a minimum:

- 20       (1) Describe the behavioral health services to be provided;  
21       (2) Establish responsibility for the costs of the services;  
22       (3) Establish responsibility for the costs of transporting  
23 individuals receiving the services under the act;  
24       (4) Specify the duration of the contract;  
25       (5) Specify the means of terminating the contract;  
26       (6) Specify the terms and conditions for refusal to admit or retain  
27 an individual; and  
28       (7) Identify the goals to be accomplished by the placement of an  
29 individual under the act.

30       Sec. 6. (1) An individual who is detained, committed, or placed on  
31 an involuntary basis under the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act may

1 be confined or treated in an authorized state pursuant to a contract  
2 under the Interstate Placement for Involuntarily Admitted Patients  
3 Agreement Act. An individual who is detained, committed, or placed on an  
4 involuntary basis under the civil law of an authorized state may be  
5 confined or treated in Nebraska pursuant to a contract under the act. A  
6 peace or health officer who is acting under the authority of the sending  
7 state may transport an individual to a receiving agency that provides  
8 behavioral health services pursuant to a contract under the act and may  
9 transport the individual back to the sending state under the laws of the  
10 sending state. Court orders valid under the laws of the sending state are  
11 granted recognition and reciprocity in the receiving state for  
12 individuals covered by a contract under the act to the extent that the  
13 court orders relate to confinement for treatment or care of a person who  
14 is mentally ill as defined in section 71-907. Such treatment or care may  
15 address other conditions that may be co-occurring with the mental  
16 illness. These court orders are not subject to legal challenge in the  
17 courts of the receiving state. Individuals who are detained, committed,  
18 or placed under the law of a sending state and who are transferred to a  
19 receiving state under the act continue to be in the legal custody of the  
20 authority responsible for them under the law of the sending state. Except  
21 in emergencies, those individuals may not be transferred, removed, or  
22 furloughed from a receiving agency without the specific approval of the  
23 authority responsible for them under the law of the sending state.

24       (2) While in the receiving state pursuant to a contract under the  
25 act, an individual shall be subject to the sending state's laws and rules  
26 relating to length of confinement, reexaminations, and extensions of  
27 confinement. No individual may be sent to another state pursuant to a  
28 contract under the act until the receiving state has enacted a law  
29 recognizing the validity and applicability of the act.

30       (3) If an individual receiving behavioral health services pursuant  
31 to a contract under the act leaves the receiving agency without

1 permission and the individual is subject to involuntary confinement under  
2 the law of the sending state, the receiving agency shall use all  
3 reasonable means to return the individual to the receiving agency. The  
4 receiving agency shall immediately report the absence to the sending  
5 agency. The receiving state has the primary responsibility for, and the  
6 authority to direct, the return of these individuals within its borders  
7 and is liable for the cost of the action to the extent that it would be  
8 liable for costs of its own resident.

9 (4) Responsibility for payment for the cost of care remains with the  
10 sending agency.

11 (5) This section also applies to contracts entered into by regions  
12 under section 3 of this act which include emergency care and treatment  
13 provided to a resident of the region in an authorized state.

14 (6) If a Nebraska resident is admitted to a health care facility in  
15 an authorized state under the Interstate Placement for Involuntarily  
16 Admitted Patients Agreement Act, a mental health practitioner, who is  
17 licensed in the authorized state, may act as a mental health professional  
18 under the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act. Such mental health  
19 practitioner may initiate an emergency hold under the Nebraska Mental  
20 Health Commitment Act on a Nebraska resident who is in a health care  
21 facility that is under contract with a Nebraska governmental entity under  
22 the Interstate Placement for Involuntarily Admitted Patients Agreement  
23 Act if the resident, in the opinion of the mental health practitioner,  
24 meets the criteria in the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act.

25 (7) The Interstate Placement for Involuntarily Admitted Patients  
26 Agreement Act shall apply to behavioral health services that are  
27 unrelated to treatment whether the services are provided on a voluntary  
28 or involuntary basis.