

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Sophie Walsh 271-3469

HB 370, reestablishing the commission to study the delivery of behavioral crisis services to individuals with mental illness with an impairment primarily due to intellectual disability.

Hearing Date: March 26, 2025

Time Opened: 10:56 a.m.

Time Closed: 11:00 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Rochefort, Avard, Birdsell, Prentiss and Long

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill reestablishes the commission to study the delivery of behavioral crisis services to individuals with mental illness with an impairment primarily due to intellectual disability.

Sponsors:

Rep. Bernardy

Who supports the bill: Chase Eagleson (NH Council on Developmental Disabilities), Matthew Stern, Haley Demers, Daniel Richardson, Jennifer Chisholm, Sayre Moskwa, Laura Sokoloski, AJ Coletti, Krysten Evans (ABLE NH), Mary Grace Allen, and Alicia Manion.

Who opposes the bill: No one.

Who is neutral on the bill: No one.

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative JD Bernardy, Rockingham – District 36

- Representative Bernardy stated that this bill seeks to re-establish the commission to study the delivery of behavioral crisis services for individuals with mental illness whose impairment is primarily due to intellectual disability.
- New Hampshire's definition of mental illness in statute excludes impairment primarily caused by epilepsy, intellectual disability, continuous or non-continuous intoxication from substances, and dependence or addiction to substances.

- There are approximately 10 cases each year involving individuals experiencing significant behavioral crises being brought to local hospitals that lack the necessary staff and services to treat the crisis. These individuals are often held for 3-4 weeks without appropriate treatment before being released.
- During the last legislative session, a commission was established to study this issue and develop a solution. The commission's goal was to develop procedures within the existing mental health system to ensure individuals experiencing behavioral crises with an impairment primarily due to intellectual disability receive timely and adequate care.
- The commission was not able to formulate legislative recommendations for the reporting deadline due to late appointments. Thus, it was determined that the best course of action was to re-establish the commission.