

By: Senator(s) Bryan

To: Government Structure

## SENATE BILL NO. 2864

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-4-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE  
3 STATE BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH; TO AMEND SECTION 41-4-7, MISSISSIPPI  
4 CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
5 OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE  
6 SENATE AND TO SERVE FOR A TERM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-4-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 41-4-3. (1) (a) There is created a State Board of Mental  
11 Health, referred to in this chapter as "board," consisting of nine  
12 (9) members, to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and  
13 consent of the Senate, each of whom shall be a qualified  
14 elector. \* \* \* One (1) member shall be appointed from each \* \* \*  
15 congressional district as constituted on January 1, 2025, and five  
16 (5) members shall be appointed from the state at large. Four (4)  
17 of the state-at-large members shall meet the following  
18 requirements: One (1) \* \* \* shall be a licensed medical doctor  
19 who is a psychiatrist, one (1) shall hold a Ph.D. degree and be a  
20 licensed clinical psychologist, one (1) shall be a licensed



21 medical doctor, and one (1) \* \* \* shall be a social worker with  
22 experience in the mental health field.

23 (b) No more than three (3) members of the board shall  
24 be appointed from any one (1) congressional district as  
25 constituted on January 1, 2025. However, the provisions of this  
26 paragraph shall not affect any member of the board serving on July  
27 1, 2025.

28 (c) The members of the board shall serve for terms as  
29 follows: One (1) member shall serve for a term that expires on  
30 June 30, 2026; one (1) member shall serve for a term that expires  
31 on June 30, 2027; two (2) members shall serve for terms that  
32 expire on June 30, 2028; one (1) member shall serve for a term  
33 that expires on June 30, 2029; two (2) members shall serve for  
34 terms that expire on June 30, 2031; and two (2) members shall  
35 serve for terms that expire on June 30, 2032. After the  
36 expiration of those terms, all subsequent appointments shall be  
37 for terms of seven (7) from the expiration date of the previous  
38 term. The appointment of a member to succeed a member who was  
39 appointed from a congressional district shall be made from the  
40 same congressional district as that of the member whose term is  
41 expiring. The Governor shall fill any vacancy for the remainder  
42 of the unexpired term. The provisions of this paragraph do not  
43 require the reappointment of any member of the board who was  
44 appointed for any of the terms specified in this paragraph.

45 \* \* \*



46           (d) The board shall elect a chairman whose term of  
47 office shall be one (1) year and until his or her successor \* \* \*  
48 is elected.

49           (2) Each board member shall be entitled to a per diem as is  
50 authorized by law and all actual and necessary expenses, including  
51 mileage as provided by law, incurred in the discharge of official  
52 duties.

53           (3) The board shall hold regular meetings quarterly and such  
54 special meetings deemed necessary, except that no action shall be  
55 taken unless there is present a quorum of at least five (5)  
56 members.

57           (4) No board member may be appointed for more than two (2)  
58 consecutive terms. For purposes of counting terms of any board  
59 member, when the term ends for any board member who is a member of  
60 the board as of July 1, 2023, the end of such term shall be  
61 considered the person's first term. If any person who is a member  
62 of the board as of July 1, 2023, is re-appointed after the  
63 expiration of his or her term, such succeeding term shall be  
64 considered the second term and such person shall not be  
65 re-appointed to the board without a break in service.

66           **SECTION 2.** Section 41-4-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
67 amended as follows:

68           41-4-7. The State Board of Mental Health shall have the  
69 following powers and duties:



70           (a) To appoint \* \* \* a full-time Executive Director of  
71 the Department of Mental Health, who shall be employed by the  
72 board and shall serve as executive secretary to the board. The  
73 executive director \* \* \* shall possess at least a master's degree  
74 or its equivalent, and shall possess at least ten (10) years'  
75 administrative experience in the field of mental health. The  
76 salary of the executive director shall be determined by the board;

77           (b) To appoint a Medical Director for the Department of  
78 Mental Health. The medical director shall provide clinical  
79 oversight in the implementation of evidence-based and best  
80 practices; provide clinical leadership in the integration of  
81 mental health, intellectual disability and addiction services with  
82 community partners in the public and private sectors; and provide  
83 oversight regarding standards of care. The medical director shall  
84 serve at the will and pleasure of the board, and will undergo an  
85 annual review of job performance and future service to the  
86 department;

87           (c) To establish and implement its state strategic  
88 plan;

89           (d) To develop a strategic plan for the development of  
90 services for persons with mental illness, persons with  
91 developmental disabilities and other clients of the public mental  
92 health system. Such strategic planning program shall require that  
93 the board, acting through the Strategic Planning and Best



94 Practices Committee, perform the following functions respecting  
95 the delivery of services:

96 (i) Establish measures for determining the  
97 efficiency and effectiveness of the services specified in Section  
98 41-4-1(2);

99 (ii) Conducting studies of community-based care in  
100 other jurisdictions to determine which services offered in these  
101 jurisdictions have the potential to provide the citizens of  
102 Mississippi with more effective and efficient community-based  
103 care;

104 (iii) Evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness  
105 of the services specified in Section 41-4-1(2);

106 (iv) Recommending to the Legislature by January 1,  
107 2014, any necessary additions, deletions or other changes  
108 necessary to the services specified in Section 41-4-1(2);

109 (v) Implementing by July 1, 2012, a system of  
110 performance measures for the services specified in Section  
111 41-4-1(2);

112 (vi) Recommending to the Legislature any changes  
113 that the department believes are necessary to the current laws  
114 addressing civil commitment;

115 (vii) Conducting any other activities necessary to  
116 the evaluation and study of the services specified in Section  
117 41-4-1(2);



(viii) Assisting in conducting all necessary strategic planning for the delivery of all other services of the department. Such planning shall be conducted so as to produce a single strategic plan for the services delivered by the public mental health system and shall establish appropriate mission statements, goals, objectives and performance indicators for all programs and services of the public mental health system. For services other than those specified in Section 41-4-1(2), the committee shall recommend to the State Board of Mental Health a strategic plan that the board may adopt or modify;

(e) To set up state plans for the purpose of controlling and treating any and all forms of mental and emotional illness, alcoholism, drug misuse and developmental disabilities;

(f) [Repealed]

(g) To enter into contracts with any other state or federal agency, or with any private person, organization or group capable of contracting, if it finds such action to be in the public interest;

(h) To collect reasonable fees for its services; however, if it is determined that a person receiving services is unable to pay the total fee, the department shall collect no more than the amount such person is able to pay;

(i) To certify, coordinate and establish minimum standards and establish minimum required services, as specified in Section 41-4-1(2), for regional mental health and intellectual



143 disability commissions and other community service providers for  
144 community or regional programs and services in adult mental  
145 health, children and youth mental health, intellectual  
146 disabilities, alcoholism, drug misuse, developmental disabilities,  
147 compulsive gambling, addictive disorders and related programs  
148 throughout the state. Such regional mental health and  
149 intellectual disability commissions and other community service  
150 providers shall, on or before July 1 of each year, submit an  
151 annual operational plan to the State Department of Mental Health  
152 for approval or disapproval based on the minimum standards and  
153 minimum required services established by the department for  
154 certification and itemize the services specified in Section  
155 41-4-1(2), including financial statements. As part of the annual  
156 operation plan required by this paragraph (i) submitted by any  
157 regional community mental health center or by any other reasonable  
158 certification deemed acceptable by the department, the community  
159 mental health center shall state those services specified in  
160 Section 41-4-1(2) that it will provide and also those services  
161 that it will not provide. If the department finds deficiencies in  
162 the plan of any regional commission or community service provider  
163 based on the minimum standards and minimum required services  
164 established for certification, the department shall give the  
165 regional commission or community service provider a six-month  
166 probationary period to bring its standards and services up to the  
167 established minimum standards and minimum required services. The



168 regional commission or community service provider shall develop a  
169 sustainability business plan within thirty (30) days of being  
170 placed on probation, which shall be signed by all commissioners  
171 and shall include policies to address one or more of the  
172 following: the deficiencies in programmatic services, clinical  
173 service staff expectations, timely and appropriate billing,  
174 processes to obtain credentialing for staff, monthly reporting  
175 processes, third-party financial reporting and any other required  
176 documentation as determined by the department. After the  
177 six-month probationary period, if the department determines that  
178 the regional commission or community service provider still does  
179 not meet the minimum standards and minimum required services  
180 established for certification, the department may remove the  
181 certification of the commission or provider and from and after  
182 July 1, 2011, the commission or provider shall be ineligible for  
183 state funds from Medicaid reimbursement or other funding sources  
184 for those services. However, the department shall not mandate a  
185 standard or service, or decertify a regional commission or  
186 community service provider for not meeting a standard or service,  
187 if the standard or service does not have funding appropriated by  
188 the Legislature or have a state, federal or local funding source  
189 identified by the department. No county shall be required to levy  
190 millage to provide a mandated standard or service above the  
191 minimum rate required by Section 41-19-39. After the six-month  
192 probationary period, the department may identify an appropriate



community service provider to provide any core services in that county that are not provided by a community mental health center. However, the department shall not offer reimbursement or other accommodations to a community service provider of core services that were not offered to the decertified community mental health center for the same or similar services. The State Board of Mental Health shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this paragraph (i), in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Law (Section 25-43-1.101 et seq.);

(j) To establish and promulgate reasonable minimum standards for the construction and operation of state and all Department of Mental Health certified facilities, including reasonable minimum standards for the admission, diagnosis, care, treatment, transfer of patients and their records, and also including reasonable minimum standards for providing day care, outpatient care, emergency care, inpatient care and follow-up care, when such care is provided for persons with mental or emotional illness, an intellectual disability, alcoholism, drug misuse and developmental disabilities;

(k) To implement best practices for all services specified in Section 41-4-1(2), and to establish and implement all other services delivered by the Department of Mental Health. To carry out this responsibility, the board shall require the department to establish a division responsible for developing best practices based on a comprehensive analysis of the mental health



environment to determine what the best practices for each service are. In developing best practices, the board shall consider the cost and benefits associated with each practice with a goal of implementing only those practices that are cost-effective practices for service delivery. Such best practices shall be utilized by the board in establishing performance standards and evaluations of the community mental health centers' services required by paragraph (d) of this section;

(l) To assist community or regional programs consistent with the purposes of this chapter by making grants and contracts from available funds;

(m) To establish and collect reasonable fees for necessary inspection services incidental to certification or compliance;

(n) To accept gifts, trusts, bequests, grants, endowments or transfers of property of any kind;

(o) To receive monies coming to it by way of fees for services or by appropriations;

(p) To serve as the single state agency in receiving and administering any and all funds available from any source for the purpose of service delivery, training, research and education in regard to all forms of mental illness, intellectual disabilities, alcoholism, drug misuse and developmental disabilities, unless such funds are specifically designated to a



particular agency or institution by the federal government, the  
Mississippi Legislature or any other grantor;

(q) To establish mental health holding centers for the  
purpose of providing short-term emergency mental health treatment,  
places for holding persons awaiting commitment proceedings or  
awaiting placement in a state mental health facility following  
commitment, and for diverting placement in a state mental health  
facility. These mental health holding facilities shall be readily  
accessible, available statewide, and be in compliance with  
emergency services' minimum standards. They shall be  
comprehensive and available to triage and make appropriate  
clinical disposition, including the capability to access inpatient  
services or less restrictive alternatives, as needed, as  
determined by medical staff. Such facility shall have medical,  
nursing and behavioral services available on a  
twenty-four-hour-a-day basis. The board may provide for all or  
part of the costs of establishing and operating the holding  
centers in each district from such funds as may be appropriated to  
the board for such use, and may participate in any plan or  
agreement with any public or private entity under which the entity  
will provide all or part of the costs of establishing and  
operating a holding center in any district;

(r) To certify/license case managers, mental health  
therapists, intellectual disability therapists, mental  
health/intellectual disability program administrators, addiction



counselors and others as deemed appropriate by the board. Persons already professionally licensed by another state board or agency are not required to be certified/licensed under this section by the Department of Mental Health. The department shall not use professional titles in its certification/licensure process for which there is an independent licensing procedure. Such certification/licensure shall be valid only in the state mental health system, in programs funded and/or certified by the Department of Mental Health, and/or in programs certified/licensed by the State Department of Health that are operated by the state mental health system serving persons with mental illness, an intellectual disability, a developmental disability or addictions, and shall not be transferable;

(s) To develop formal mental health worker qualifications for regional mental health and intellectual disability commissions and other community service providers. The State Personnel Board shall develop and promulgate a recommended salary scale and career ladder for all regional mental health/intellectual disability center therapists and case managers who work directly with clients. The State Personnel Board shall also develop and promulgate a career ladder for all direct care workers employed by the State Department of Mental Health;

(t) The employees of the department shall be governed by personnel merit system rules and regulations, the same as other employees in state services;



292           (u) To establish such rules and regulations as may be  
293 necessary in carrying out the provisions of this chapter,  
294 including the establishment of a formal grievance procedure to  
295 investigate and attempt to resolve consumer complaints;

296           (v) To grant easements for roads, utilities and any  
297 other purpose it finds to be in the public interest;

298           (w) To survey statutory designations, building markers  
299 and the names given to mental health/intellectual disability  
300 facilities and proceedings in order to recommend deletion of  
301 obsolete and offensive terminology relative to the mental  
302 health/intellectual disability system. Based upon a  
303 recommendation of the executive director, the board shall have the  
304 authority to name/rename any facility operated under the auspices  
305 of the Department of Mental Health for the sole purpose of  
306 deleting such terminology;

307           (x) To ensure an effective case management system  
308 directed at persons who have been discharged from state and  
309 private psychiatric hospitals to ensure their continued well-being  
310 in the community;

311           (y) To develop formal service delivery standards  
312 designed to measure the quality of services delivered to community  
313 clients, as well as the timeliness of services to community  
314 clients provided by regional mental health/intellectual disability  
315 commissions and other community services providers;



(z) To establish regional state offices to provide mental health crisis intervention centers and services available throughout the state to be utilized on a case-by-case emergency basis. The regional services director, other staff and delivery systems shall meet the minimum standards of the Department of Mental Health;

(aa) To require performance contracts with community mental health/intellectual disability service providers to contain performance indicators to measure successful outcomes, including diversion of persons from inpatient psychiatric hospitals, rapid/timely response to emergency cases, client satisfaction with services and other relevant performance measures;

(bb) To enter into interagency agreements with other state agencies, school districts and other local entities as determined necessary by the department to ensure that local mental health service entities are fulfilling their responsibilities to the overall state plan for behavioral services;

(cc) To establish and maintain a toll-free grievance reporting telephone system for the receipt and referral for investigation of all complaints by clients of state and community mental health/intellectual disability facilities;

(dd) To establish a peer review/quality assurance evaluation system that assures that appropriate assessment, diagnosis and treatment is provided according to established professional criteria and guidelines;



(ee) To develop and implement state plans for the purpose of assisting with the care and treatment of persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia. This plan shall include education and training of service providers, caregivers in the home setting and others who deal with persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia, and development of adult day care, family respite care and counseling programs to assist families who maintain persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia in the home setting. No agency shall be required to provide any services under this section until such time as sufficient funds have been appropriated or otherwise made available by the Legislature specifically for the purposes of the treatment of persons with Alzheimer's and other dementia;

(ff) Working with the advice and consent of the administration of Ellisville State School, to enter into negotiations with the Economic Development Authority of Jones County for the purpose of negotiating the possible exchange, lease or sale of lands owned by Ellisville State School to the Economic Development Authority of Jones County. It is the intent of the Mississippi Legislature that such negotiations shall ensure that the financial interest of the persons with an intellectual disability served by Ellisville State School will be held paramount in the course of these negotiations. The Legislature also recognizes the importance of economic development to the citizens of the State of Mississippi and Jones County, and



encourages fairness to the Economic Development Authority of Jones County. Any negotiations proposed which would result in the recommendation for exchange, lease or sale of lands owned by Ellisville State School must have the approval of the State Board of Mental Health. The State Board of Mental Health may and has the final authority as to whether or not these negotiations result in the exchange, lease or sale of the properties it currently holds in trust for persons with an intellectual disability served at Ellisville State School.

If the State Board of Mental Health authorizes the sale of lands owned by Ellisville State School, as provided for under this paragraph (ff), the monies derived from the sale shall be placed into a special fund that is created in the State Treasury to be known as the "Ellisville State School Client's Trust Fund." The principal of the trust fund shall remain inviolate and shall never be expended. Any interest earned on the principal may be expended solely for the benefits of clients served at Ellisville State School. The State Treasurer shall invest the monies of the trust fund in any of the investments authorized for the Mississippi Prepaid Affordable College Tuition Program under Section 37-155-9, and those investments shall be subject to the limitations prescribed by Section 37-155-9. Unexpended amounts remaining in the trust fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest earned on amounts in the trust fund shall be deposited to the credit of the trust fund.



391 The administration of Ellisville State School may use any interest  
392 earned on the principal of the trust fund, upon appropriation by  
393 the Legislature, as needed for services or facilities by the  
394 clients of Ellisville State School. Ellisville State School shall  
395 make known to the Legislature, through the Legislative Budget  
396 Committee and the respective Appropriations Committees of the  
397 House and Senate, its proposed use of interest earned on the  
398 principal of the trust fund for any fiscal year in which it  
399 proposes to make expenditures thereof. The State Treasurer shall  
400 provide Ellisville State School with an annual report on the  
401 Ellisville State School Client's Trust Fund to indicate the total  
402 monies in the trust fund, interest earned during the year,  
403 expenses paid from the trust fund and such other related  
404 information.

405       Nothing in this section shall be construed as applying to or  
406 affecting mental health/intellectual disability services provided  
407 by hospitals as defined in Section 41-9-3(a), and/or their  
408 subsidiaries and divisions, which hospitals, subsidiaries and  
409 divisions are licensed and regulated by the Mississippi State  
410 Department of Health unless such hospitals, subsidiaries or  
411 divisions voluntarily request certification by the Mississippi  
412 State Department of Mental Health.

413       All new programs authorized under this section shall be  
414 subject to the availability of funds appropriated therefor by the  
415 Legislature;



416 (gg) Working with the advice and consent of the  
417 administration of Boswell Regional Center, to enter into  
418 negotiations with the Economic Development Authority of Simpson  
419 County for the purpose of negotiating the possible exchange, lease  
420 or sale of lands owned by Boswell Regional Center to the Economic  
421 Development Authority of Simpson County. It is the intent of the  
422 Mississippi Legislature that such negotiations shall ensure that  
423 the financial interest of the persons with an intellectual  
424 disability served by Boswell Regional Center will be held  
425 paramount in the course of these negotiations. The Legislature  
426 also recognizes the importance of economic development to the  
427 citizens of the State of Mississippi and Simpson County, and  
428 encourages fairness to the Economic Development Authority of  
429 Simpson County. Any negotiations proposed which would result in  
430 the recommendation for exchange, lease or sale of lands owned by  
431 Boswell Regional Center must have the approval of the State Board  
432 of Mental Health. The State Board of Mental Health may and has  
433 the final authority as to whether or not these negotiations result  
434 in the exchange, lease or sale of the properties it currently  
435 holds in trust for persons with an intellectual disability served  
436 at Boswell Regional Center. In any such exchange, lease or sale  
437 of such lands owned by Boswell Regional Center, title to all  
438 minerals, oil and gas on such lands shall be reserved, together  
439 with the right of ingress and egress to remove same, whether such



provisions be included in the terms of any such exchange, lease or sale or not.

If the State Board of Mental Health authorizes the sale of lands owned by Boswell Regional Center, as provided for under this paragraph (gg), the monies derived from the sale shall be placed into a special fund that is created in the State Treasury to be known as the "Boswell Regional Center Client's Trust Fund." The principal of the trust fund shall remain inviolate and shall never be expended. Any earnings on the principal may be expended solely for the benefits of clients served at Boswell Regional Center. The State Treasurer shall invest the monies of the trust fund in any of the investments authorized for the Mississippi Prepaid Affordable College Tuition Program under Section 37-155-9, and those investments shall be subject to the limitations prescribed by Section 37-155-9. Unexpended amounts remaining in the trust fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any earnings on amounts in the trust fund shall be deposited to the credit of the trust fund. The administration of Boswell Regional Center may use any earnings on the principal of the trust fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, as needed for services or facilities by the clients of Boswell Regional Center. Boswell Regional Center shall make known to the Legislature, through the Legislative Budget Committee and the respective Appropriations Committees of the House and Senate, its proposed use of the earnings on the principal of the trust fund



465 for any fiscal year in which it proposes to make expenditures  
466 thereof. The State Treasurer shall provide Boswell Regional  
467 Center with an annual report on the Boswell Regional Center  
468 Client's Trust Fund to indicate the total monies in the trust  
469 fund, interest and other income earned during the year, expenses  
470 paid from the trust fund and such other related information.

471 Nothing in this section shall be construed as applying to or  
472 affecting mental health/intellectual disability services provided  
473 by hospitals as defined in Section 41-9-3(a), and/or their  
474 subsidiaries and divisions, which hospitals, subsidiaries and  
475 divisions are licensed and regulated by the Mississippi State  
476 Department of Health unless such hospitals, subsidiaries or  
477 divisions voluntarily request certification by the Mississippi  
478 State Department of Mental Health.

479 All new programs authorized under this section shall be  
480 subject to the availability of funds appropriated therefor by the  
481 Legislature;

482 (hh) Notwithstanding any other section of the code, the  
483 Board of Mental Health shall be authorized to fingerprint and  
484 perform a criminal history record check on every employee or  
485 volunteer. Every employee and volunteer shall provide a valid  
486 current social security number and/or driver's license number  
487 which shall be furnished to conduct the criminal history record  
488 check. If no disqualifying record is identified at the state



level, fingerprints shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check;

(ii) The Department of Mental Health shall have the authority for the development of a consumer friendly single point of intake and referral system within its service areas for persons with mental illness, an intellectual disability, developmental disabilities or alcohol or substance abuse who need assistance identifying or accessing appropriate services. The department will develop and implement a comprehensive evaluation procedure ensuring that, where appropriate, the affected person or their parent or legal guardian will be involved in the assessment and planning process. The department, as the point of intake and as service provider, shall have the authority to determine the appropriate institutional, hospital or community care setting for persons who have been diagnosed with mental illness, an intellectual disability, developmental disabilities and/or alcohol or substance abuse, and may provide for the least restrictive placement if the treating professional believes such a setting is appropriate, if the person affected or their parent or legal guardian wants such services, and if the department can do so with a reasonable modification of the program without creating a fundamental alteration of the program. The least restrictive setting could be an institution, hospital or community setting, based upon the needs of the affected person or their parent or legal guardian;



(jj) To have the sole power and discretion to enter into, sign, execute and deliver long-term or multiyear leases of real and personal property owned by the Department of Mental Health to and from other state and federal agencies and private entities deemed to be in the public's best interest. Any monies derived from such leases shall be deposited into the funds of the Department of Mental Health for its exclusive use. Leases to private entities shall be approved by the Department of Finance and Administration and all leases shall be filed with the Secretary of State;

(kk) To certify and establish minimum standards and minimum required services for county facilities used for housing, feeding and providing medical treatment for any person who has been involuntarily ordered admitted to a treatment center by a court of competent jurisdiction. The minimum standard for the initial assessment of those persons being housed in county facilities is for the assessment to be performed by a physician, preferably a psychiatrist, or by a nurse practitioner, preferably a psychiatric nurse practitioner. If the department finds deficiencies in any such county facility or its provider based on the minimum standards and minimum required services established for certification, the department shall give the county or its provider a six-month probationary period to bring its standards and services up to the established minimum standards and minimum required services. After the six-month probationary period, if



539 the department determines that the county or its provider still  
540 does not meet the minimum standards and minimum required services,  
541 the department may remove the certification of the county or  
542 provider and require the county to contract with another county  
543 having a certified facility to hold those persons for that period  
544 of time pending transportation and admission to a state treatment  
545 facility. Any cost incurred by a county receiving an  
546 involuntarily committed person from a county with a decertified  
547 holding facility shall be reimbursed by the home county to the  
548 receiving county; and

549 (11) To provide orientation training to all new  
550 commissioners of regional commissions and annual training for all  
551 commissioners with continuing education regarding the Mississippi  
552 mental health system and services as developed by the State  
553 Department of Mental Health. Training shall be provided at the  
554 expense of the department except for travel expenses which shall  
555 be paid by the regional commission.

556 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
557 and after July 1, 2025.

