

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to behavioral health teaching  
3           hospitals; creating part VI of ch. 395, F.S., entitled  
4           "Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals"; creating s.  
5           395.901, F.S.; defining the terms "agency" and  
6           "behavioral health teaching hospital"; providing  
7           legislative findings and intent; creating s. 395.902,  
8           F.S.; specifying the manner in which hospitals may  
9           seek designation as a behavioral health teaching  
10          hospital; specifying criteria that a hospital must  
11          meet to receive such designation; amending s. 1004.44,  
12          F.S.; establishing the Florida Center for Behavioral  
13          Health Workforce within the Louis de la Parte Florida  
14          Mental Health Institute for a specified purpose;  
15          specifying the primary goals of the center; requiring  
16          the center to establish and maintain a database on the  
17          supply and demand of behavioral health professionals  
18          in this state for a specified purpose; authorizing the  
19          center to request, and requiring certain boards to  
20          provide, certain information regarding behavioral  
21          health professionals licensed or practicing in this  
22          state; requiring the center to submit an annual report  
23          of certain information to the Governor and the  
24          Legislature; establishing the Florida Behavioral  
25          Health Professions Scholarship and Grants Program,

26 | subject to an appropriation, to be administered by the  
27 | center; providing purposes of the program; specifying  
28 | the center's duties in administering the program;  
29 | requiring the center, in collaboration with the Board  
30 | of Governors and the State Board of Education, to  
31 | identify certain indicators for measuring progress and  
32 | performance of the educational programs at designated  
33 | behavioral health teaching hospitals in this state;  
34 | requiring the center to provide an annual report to  
35 | the Governor, the Legislature, the Chancellor of the  
36 | State University System, and the Commissioner of  
37 | Education; providing requirements for the report;  
38 | requiring the center, in collaboration with the Board  
39 | of Governors, the State Board of Education, and other  
40 | stakeholders, to submit statutory and budget  
41 | recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by  
42 | a specified date each year; requiring the Board of  
43 | Governors and the State Board of Education, in  
44 | consultation with the center, to adopt any necessary  
45 | regulations and rules in an expeditious manner;  
46 | requiring the Department of Children and Families, in  
47 | coordination with the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental  
48 | Health Institute, to contract for a two-part study of  
49 | the state's behavioral health system; specifying  
50 | requirements for the study; providing effective dates.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Part VI of chapter 395, Florida Statutes, consisting of ss. 395.901 and 395.902, Florida Statutes, is created and entitled "Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals."

Section 2. Section 395.901, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

395.901 Behavioral health teaching hospitals.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this part, the term:

(a) "Agency" means the Agency for Health Care Administration.

(b) "Behavioral health teaching hospital" means a community-based hospital licensed under this chapter which has partnered with a university school of medicine and offers integrated behavioral health education as specified in s. 395.902.

(2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

(a) The Legislature finds that there is a critical shortage of behavioral health professionals and recognizes the urgent need to expand the existing behavioral health workforce, prepare for an aging workforce, incentivize entry into behavioral health professions, and train a modernized workforce in innovative integrated care.

(b) The Legislature finds there is a specific need to

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76 support a behavioral health education system that not only  
77 trains the next generation of professionals in innovative and  
78 integrated care for those with behavioral health needs, but also  
79 works to modernize the state's overall behavioral health system  
80 of care.

81 (c) Therefore, the Legislature intends to identify and  
82 designate multiple behavioral health teaching hospitals that  
83 work to provide the necessary research, education, and services  
84 to not only enhance this state's behavioral health workforce,  
85 but to make that workforce and system of care the national  
86 standard. The Legislature intends to partner with the University  
87 of South Florida and Tampa General Hospital to establish a pilot  
88 designated behavioral health teaching hospital to develop and  
89 implement a statewide model, and further intends to create the  
90 Behavioral Health Workforce Center within the university's Louis  
91 de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute to address issues of  
92 workforce supply and demand in behavioral health professions,  
93 including issues of recruitment, retention, and workforce  
94 resources.

95 (d) The Legislature intends for designated behavioral  
96 health teaching hospitals to:

- 97 1. Focus on state-of-the-art behavioral health research.
- 98 2. Provide leading-edge education and training for this  
99 state's behavioral health workforce in innovative and integrated  
100 care.

101       3. Collaborate with other college and university schools  
 102 of nursing, psychology, social work, pharmacy, public health,  
 103 and other relevant disciplines to promote and enhance a  
 104 modernized behavioral health system of care.

105       4. Develop, implement, and promote public-private  
 106 partnerships throughout this state to support and enhance the  
 107 intent of this part.

108       5. Provide inpatient and outpatient behavioral health care  
 109 and support the state in providing treatment and care for those  
 110 whose need and acuity has resulted in the need for long-term  
 111 voluntary or involuntary civil commitment.

112       Section 3. Section 395.902, Florida Statutes, is created  
 113 to read:

114       395.902 Designated behavioral health teaching hospitals.-

115       (1) A hospital that partners with a university school of  
 116 medicine may seek designation as a behavioral health teaching  
 117 hospital by submitting an application and required documentation  
 118 to the agency in a manner determined by the agency.

119       (2) To be designated as a behavioral health teaching  
 120 hospital, a hospital must meet all of the following criteria:

121       (a) Offer a psychiatric residency program accredited  
 122 through the Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation  
 123 Council of Graduate Medical Education.

124       (b) Offer a postdoctoral clinical psychology fellowship  
 125 program accredited by the American Psychological Association.

126        (c) Develop and maintain a consultation agreement with the  
 127 Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute as established  
 128 in s. 1004.44, including with the Florida Center for Behavioral  
 129 Health Workforce.

130        (d) As part of its partnership with a university school of  
 131 medicine, develop a plan that meets all of the following  
 132 criteria:

133            1. Promotes a coordinated system of care which offers  
 134 inpatient and outpatient treatment and services for individuals  
 135 with behavioral health needs, including, but not limited to,  
 136 prevention, community inpatient care, crisis stabilization,  
 137 short-term residential treatment, screening, therapeutic and  
 138 supportive services, and long-term care.

139            2. Develops and offers integrated workforce development  
 140 programs, including, but not limited to, practicums and  
 141 internships for clinical and nonclinical behavioral and physical  
 142 health professions.

143            3. Coordinates and promotes innovative partnerships that  
 144 integrate colleges and schools of nursing, psychology, social  
 145 work, pharmacy, public health, and other relevant disciplines  
 146 with existing local and regional programs, clinics, and  
 147 resources.

148        Section 4. Subsections (6), (7), and (8) are added to  
 149 section 1004.44, Florida Statutes, to read:

150            1004.44 Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health

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151 Institute.—There is established the Louis de la Parte Florida  
152 Mental Health Institute within the University of South Florida.

153 (6) (a) There is established, within the institute, the  
154 Florida Center for Behavioral Health Workforce to address issues  
155 of workforce supply and demand in behavioral health professions,  
156 including issues of recruitment, retention, and workforce  
157 resources.

158 (b) The primary goals for the center are to:

159 1. Develop a strategic statewide plan for the behavioral  
160 health workforce in this state by:

161 a. Conducting a statistically valid biennial data-driven  
162 analysis of the supply and demand of the behavioral health  
163 workforce. To achieve such goal, the center must:

164 (I) Establish and maintain a database on the supply and  
165 demand of behavioral health professionals in this state, to  
166 include current supply and demand; and

167 (II) Analyze the current and future supply and demand in  
168 the state.

169 b. Developing recommendations and strategies to increase  
170 behavioral health faculty and educational supervision, support  
171 behavioral health faculty development, and promote advanced  
172 behavioral health education.

173 c. Developing best practices in the academic preparation  
174 and continuing education needs of qualified behavioral health  
175 educators.

- 176 d. Collecting data on behavioral health faculty,  
 177 employment, distribution, and retention.
- 178 e. Piloting innovative projects to support the  
 179 recruitment, development, and retention of qualified behavioral  
 180 health faculty and clinical preceptors.
- 181 f. Encouraging and coordinating the development of  
 182 academic-practice partnerships, to support behavioral health  
 183 faculty employment and advancement.
- 184 g. Developing distance learning infrastructure for  
 185 behavioral health education and advancing faculty competencies  
 186 in the pedagogy of teaching and the evidence-based use of  
 187 technology, simulation, and distance learning techniques.
- 188 2. Enhance and promote behavioral health professionals in  
 189 this state by developing and promoting:
- 190 a. Behavioral health excellence programs;  
 191 b. Reward, recognition, and renewal activities; and  
 192 c. Media and image-building efforts.
- 193 3. Convene various groups representative of behavioral  
 194 health professions, other health care providers, business and  
 195 industry, consumers, lawmakers, and educators to:
- 196 a. Review and comment on data analysis prepared for the  
 197 center;
- 198 b. Recommend systemic changes, including strategies for  
 199 implementation of recommended changes; and
- 200 c. Evaluate and report the results of these efforts to the



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201 Legislature and other entities.

202 (c) The center may request from any board as defined in s.  
203 456.001, and the board must provide to the center upon its  
204 request, any information held by the board regarding a  
205 behavioral health professional licensed in this state or holding  
206 a multistate license pursuant to a professional multistate  
207 licensure compact or information reported to the board by  
208 employers of such behavioral health professionals, other than  
209 personal identifying information.

210 (d) By January 10 of each year, the center shall submit a  
211 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
212 Speaker of the House of Representatives providing details of its  
213 activities during the preceding calendar year in pursuit of its  
214 goals and in the execution of its duties under paragraph (b).

215 (7) (a) There is established a Florida Behavioral Health  
216 Professions Scholarship and Grants Program, subject to an  
217 appropriation by the Legislature, to be administered by the  
218 Florida Center for Behavioral Health Workforce. The purpose of  
219 the program is to provide scholarships to students enrolled in  
220 educational programs, including practicums, internships, and  
221 rotations, at designated behavioral health teaching hospitals in  
222 this state and provide grants to support establishment of such  
223 educational programs.

224 (b) The center must, at a minimum, do all of the following  
225 to administer the Florida Behavioral Health Professions

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226 Scholarship and Grants Program:

227 1. Coordinate, facilitate, and oversee statewide  
228 implementation of the Florida Behavioral Health Professions  
229 Scholarship and Grants Program.

230 2. Consult and collaborate with designated behavioral  
231 health teaching hospitals and affiliated universities to  
232 identify eligible educational programs to offer the scholarship  
233 program.

234 3. Establish requirements, timelines, and processes for  
235 eligibility and application for scholarships and grants.

236 4. Administer scholarship funds. The annual amount of the  
237 scholarship to be provided to an eligible student must be the  
238 amount specified in the General Appropriations Act.

239 5. Administer grant funds. The grants must be used for the  
240 implementation and operation of educational programs, including  
241 practicums, internships, and rotations, at designated behavioral  
242 health teaching hospitals in this state. Funds appropriated to  
243 the center may be used for such grants only as specifically  
244 authorized in the General Appropriations Act.

245 6. Report on the implementation and administration of this  
246 subsection by planning, advising, and evaluating approved degree  
247 and certificate programs and the performance of students and  
248 programs pursuant to paragraph (c).

249 (c)1. The center, in collaboration with the Board of  
250 Governors and the State Board of Education, shall identify

251 indicators for the satisfactory progress of students enrolled in  
252 educational programs, including practicums, internships, and  
253 rotations, at designated behavioral health teaching hospitals in  
254 this state and for the performance of such programs.

255 2. By October 1, 2025, and each year thereafter, the  
256 center shall provide to the Governor, the President of the  
257 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
258 Chancellor of the State University System, and the Commissioner  
259 of Education a report summarizing, at a minimum, the status of  
260 the statewide coordination and implementation of educational  
261 programs, including practicums, internships, and rotations, at  
262 designated behavioral health teaching hospitals in this state  
263 and the Florida Behavioral Health Professions Scholarships and  
264 Grants Program, including, but not limited to, the:

265 a. Number of applications approved and denied and the  
266 reasons for each denial.

267 b. Number and value of all scholarships awarded to  
268 students.

269 c. Projected number of students who may be eligible to  
270 enroll in educational programs, including practicums,  
271 internships, and rotations, at designated behavioral health  
272 teaching hospitals in this state within the next academic year.

273 3. The center, in collaboration with the Board of  
274 Governors, the State Board of Education, and other stakeholders,  
275 by December 1 of each year, shall submit to the Governor, the

276 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
277 Representatives statutory and budget recommendations for  
278 improving the implementation and delivery of scholarships and  
279 grants.

280 (8) The Board of Governors and the State Board of  
281 Education, in consultation with the center, shall expeditiously  
282 adopt any necessary regulations and rules, as applicable, to  
283 allow the center to perform its responsibilities under  
284 subsections (6) and (7) beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

285 Section 5. Effective upon this act becoming a law, the  
286 Department of Children and Families, in coordination with the  
287 Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, must contract  
288 for a two-part study of Florida's behavioral health system.

289 (1) The first part of the study must be a study of  
290 Florida's behavioral health system in general, including, but  
291 not limited to, all of the following:

292 (a) An analysis of Florida's behavioral health workforce  
293 and behavioral health education and training.

294 (b) An evaluation of how to best promote, integrate, and  
295 incentivize the establishment of behavioral health teaching  
296 hospitals, as detailed in this act.

297 (c) Policy recommendations for recruiting, training, and  
298 retaining an integrated behavioral health workforce.

299 (2) The second part of the study must be a detailed  
300 analysis of Florida's involuntary commitment system, including,

301 but not limited to, all of the following:

302 (a) Involuntary commitment bed capacity, in both forensic  
 303 and civil involuntary commitment settings.

304 (b) Involuntary commitment policies and processes.

305 (c) Policy recommendations for ensuring sufficient  
 306 involuntary commitment bed capacity.

307 (d) An evaluation of maintaining civil commitment beds as  
 308 a requirement for designation as a behavioral health teaching  
 309 hospital, to include potential costs related to capital outlay,  
 310 enhanced bed rate, and staffing requirements.

311 (e) Recommendations for promoting coordination between  
 312 Florida's involuntary commitment system, behavioral health  
 313 teaching hospitals, and other integrated health programs.

314 Section 6. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
 315 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon  
 316 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,  
 317 2024.