

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.; providing definitions; providing  
6           legislative findings and intent; creating s. 395.902,  
7           F.S.; specifying the manner in which licensed  
8           hospitals may seek designation as a behavioral health  
9           teaching hospital; specifying criteria that a hospital  
10          must meet to receive and maintain such designation;  
11          requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to  
12          award a hospital certain funds upon designation,  
13          subject to appropriation; requiring a designated  
14          behavioral health teaching hospital to submit an  
15          annual report containing specified information;  
16          providing for terms and a renewal process for a  
17          hospital designation; authorizing the agency to deny,  
18          revoke, or suspend the designation; establishing a  
19          grant program for the purpose of funding designated  
20          behavioral health teaching hospitals; providing an  
21          administrative process to receive, evaluate, and rank  
22          applications that request grant funds; authorizing the  
23          agency to submit a budget amendment to the Legislature  
24          requesting the release of grant funds to make awards;  
25          providing a carry forward term of years for obligated

26 funds not disbursed in the same year in which the  
27 funds were appropriated; authorizing the agency to  
28 adopt rules; amending s. 1004.44, F.S.; establishing  
29 the Florida Center for Behavioral Health Workforce  
30 within the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health  
31 Institute within the University of South Florida for a  
32 specified purpose; specifying the goals and  
33 requirements for the center; authorizing the center to  
34 request, and requiring certain boards to provide,  
35 certain information regarding behavioral health  
36 professionals licensed or practicing in this state;  
37 requiring the center to submit an annual report to the  
38 Governor and the Legislature; requiring the Board of  
39 Governors and the State Board of Education to adopt  
40 any necessary regulations and rules in an expeditious  
41 manner; requiring the Department of Children and  
42 Families to contract for a study of the current and  
43 projected future demand for inpatient treatment  
44 services, the state's current and projected future  
45 ability to meet that demand, and to make certain  
46 recommendations; specifying requirements for the  
47 study; providing effective dates.

48  
49 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
50

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

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

56           395.901 Definitions; findings and intent.-

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

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

60           (b) "Behavioral health" means the prevention, treatment  
61 of, and recovery from any or all substance use disorders, mental  
62 health disorders, or co-occurring disorders.

63           (c) "Behavioral health professions" means licensed or  
64 certified professionals serving the needs of patients with  
65 behavioral health disorders, including, but not limited to,  
66 psychiatrists licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459,  
67 psychologists licensed under chapter 490, psychiatric nurses  
68 licensed under chapter 464, and social workers, marriage and  
69 family therapists, or mental health counselors licensed under  
70 chapter 491.

71           (d) "Behavioral health teaching hospital" means a hospital  
72 licensed under this chapter and designated as a behavioral  
73 health teaching hospital by the agency under s. 395.902.

74           (e) "Department" means the Department of Children and  
75 Families.

76 (2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

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

83 (b) The Legislature finds there is a specific need to  
 84 support a behavioral health education system that not only  
 85 trains the next generation of professionals in innovative and  
 86 integrated care for those with behavioral health needs, but also  
 87 works to modernize the state's overall behavioral health system  
 88 of care.

89 (c) The Legislature intends to identify and designate  
 90 multiple behavioral health teaching hospitals that work to  
 91 provide the necessary research, education, and services to  
 92 enhance the state's behavioral health workforce and make that  
 93 workforce and system of care the national standard.

94 (d) The Legislature intends to create the Florida Center  
 95 for Behavioral Health Workforce within the Louis de la Parte  
 96 Florida Mental Health Institute to address issues of workforce  
 97 supply and demand in behavioral health professions, including  
 98 issues of recruitment, retention, and workforce resources.

99 (e) The Legislature intends for designated behavioral  
 100 health teaching hospitals to:

- 101        1. Conduct state-of-the-art behavioral health research.
- 102        2. Provide leading-edge education and training in
- 103 innovative and integrated care for the state's behavioral health
- 104 workforce.
- 105        3. Collaborate with other university colleges and schools
- 106 of medicine, nursing, psychology, social work, public health,
- 107 and other relevant disciplines to promote and enhance a
- 108 modernized behavioral health system of care.
- 109        4. Develop, implement, and promote public-private
- 110 partnerships throughout this state to support and enhance the
- 111 intent of this part.
- 112        5. Partner with the state to provide behavioral health
- 113 care, address regional and system-wide behavioral health needs,
- 114 and support the state in providing treatment and care for those
- 115 whose need and acuity has resulted in the need for long-term
- 116 voluntary services or involuntary civil commitment.
- 117        Section 3. Section 395.902, Florida Statutes, is created
- 118 to read:
- 119        395.902 Behavioral health teaching hospitals.—
- 120        (1) A licensed hospital may apply to the agency for
- 121 designation as a behavioral health teaching hospital by
- 122 submitting an application and documentation establishing
- 123 eligibility in a manner determined by the agency.
- 124        (2) To be designated as a behavioral health teaching
- 125 hospital, a hospital must:

- 126        (a) Operate as a teaching hospital as defined in s.  
127 408.07.
- 128        (b) Offer a psychiatric residency program accredited  
129 through the Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation  
130 Council of Graduate Medical Education, and an accredited  
131 postdoctoral clinical psychology fellowship program.
- 132        (c) Provide behavioral health services.
- 133        (d) Affiliate with a university in this state to create  
134 and maintain integrated workforce development programs for  
135 students of the university's colleges or schools of medicine,  
136 nursing, psychology, social work, and public health related to  
137 the entire continuum of behavioral health care, including, at a  
138 minimum, screening, therapeutic and supportive services,  
139 community outpatient care, crisis stabilization, short-term  
140 residential treatment, and long-term care.
- 141        (e) Develop a plan to create and maintain integrated  
142 workforce development programs with the affiliated university's  
143 colleges or schools and to supervise clinical care provided by  
144 students participating in such programs.
- 145        (3) A designated behavioral health teaching hospital must:
- 146        (a) Within 90 days after designation, develop and maintain  
147 a consultation agreement with the Florida Center for Behavioral  
148 Health Workforce within the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental  
149 Health Institute to establish best practices related to  
150 integrated workforce development programs for the behavioral

151 health professions.

152 (b) Collaborate with the department and managing entities  
153 as defined in s. 394.9082(2) to identify gaps in the regional  
154 continuum of behavioral health care that are appropriate for the  
155 behavioral health teaching hospital to address, either  
156 independently or in collaboration with other organizations  
157 providing behavioral health services, and which will facilitate  
158 implementation of the plan developed under paragraph (2)(e).

159 (c) Within 90 days after designation, enter into an  
160 agreement with the department to provide state treatment  
161 facility beds, when determined necessary by the department.

162 (d) Provide data related to the hospital's integrated  
163 workforce development programs and the services provided by the  
164 hospital to the agency, the department, or the Office of  
165 Reimagining Education and Career Help, as determined by the  
166 agency, department, or the Office of Reimagining Education and  
167 Career Help.

168 (4) Upon designating a behavioral health teaching hospital  
169 pursuant to this section, the agency shall, subject to  
170 legislative appropriation, award the hospital funds:

171 (a) For up to 10 newly created resident positions through  
172 the Slots for Doctors Program established in s. 409.909.

173 (b) Through the Training, Education, and Clinicals in  
174 Health (TEACH) Funding Program established in s. 409.91256 to  
175 offset the costs of maintaining integrated workforce development

176 programs.

177 (5) A designated behavioral health teaching hospital must  
178 annually report to the agency and the department by December 1  
179 the current status of the designated behavioral health teaching  
180 hospital program, including, but not limited to, the:

181 (a) Number of psychiatric residents.

182 (b) Number of postdoctoral clinical psychology fellows.

183 (c) Status and details of the consultation agreement with  
184 and Florida Center for Behavioral Health Workforce within the  
185 Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute.

186 (d) Implementation status of the plan required by  
187 paragraph (2)(e).

188 (e) Activities, agreements, and accomplishments of the  
189 collaboration required by paragraph (3)(b).

190 (f) Number of facility beds and patients served under  
191 paragraph (3)(c).

192 (6) A behavioral health teaching hospital designation is  
193 valid for 2 years. To renew the designation, a hospital must  
194 submit an application for renewal to the agency on a form  
195 established by the agency at least 90 days before the expiration  
196 of the designation. The renewal process is subject to the time  
197 periods and tolling provisions of s. 120.60. The agency may  
198 deny, revoke, or suspend a designation at any time if a  
199 behavioral health teaching hospital is not in compliance with  
200 the requirements of this section.



201        (7) There is established within the agency a grant program  
202 for the purpose of funding designated behavioral health teaching  
203 hospitals, subject to legislative appropriation. Grant funding  
204 may be used for operations and expenses and fixed capital  
205 outlay, including, but not limited to, facility renovation and  
206 upgrades.

207        (a) Beginning October 1, 2024, and subject to the  
208 availability of funds, the agency shall hold an annual open  
209 application period to accept applications from designated  
210 behavioral health teaching hospitals on a form established by  
211 the agency. Applicants must include a detailed spending plan  
212 with the application.

213        (b) The agency, in consultation with the department, shall  
214 evaluate and rank grant applications based on the quality of the  
215 plan submitted under paragraph (2)(e), or the quality of plan  
216 implementation, as applicable, related to achieving the purposes  
217 of the behavioral health teaching hospital program and make  
218 recommendations for grant awards and distribution of available  
219 funding for such awards. The agency shall submit the evaluation  
220 and grant award recommendations to the President of the Senate  
221 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives within 90 days  
222 after the close of the open application period.

223        (c) Notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, the agency  
224 may submit budget amendments, subject to the notice, review, and  
225 objection procedures under s. 216.177, requesting the release of

226 | the funds to make awards. The agency is authorized to submit  
 227 | budget amendments relating to capital improvement projects under  
 228 | the grant program only within 90 days after the close of the  
 229 | open application period.

230 | (8) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351,  
 231 | the balance of any appropriation from the General Revenue Fund  
 232 | for the program which is not disbursed but which is obligated  
 233 | pursuant to contract or committed to be expended by June 30 of  
 234 | the fiscal year in which the funds are appropriated may be  
 235 | carried forward for up to 5 years after the effective date of  
 236 | the original appropriation.

237 | (9) The agency may adopt rules necessary to implement this  
 238 | section.

239 | Section 4. Subsections (6) and (7) are added to section  
 240 | 1004.44, Florida Statutes, to read:

241 | 1004.44 Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health  
 242 | Institute.—There is established the Louis de la Parte Florida  
 243 | Mental Health Institute within the University of South Florida.

244 | (6)(a) There is established, within the institute, the  
 245 | Florida Center for Behavioral Health Workforce. The purpose of  
 246 | the center is to support an adequate, highly skilled, resilient,  
 247 | and innovative workforce that meets the current and future human  
 248 | resources needs of the state's behavioral health system in order  
 249 | to provide high-quality care, services, and supports to  
 250 | Floridians with, or at risk of developing, behavioral health

251 conditions through original research, policy analysis,  
252 evaluation, and development and dissemination of best practices.  
253 The goals of the center are, at a minimum, to research the  
254 state's current behavioral health workforce and future needs;  
255 expand the number of clinicians, professionals, and other  
256 workers involved in the behavioral health workforce; and enhance  
257 the skill level and innovativeness of the workforce. The center  
258 shall, at a minimum:

259 1. Describe and analyze the current workforce and project  
260 possible future workforce demand, especially in critical roles,  
261 and develop strategies for addressing any gaps. The center's  
262 efforts may include, but need not be limited to, producing a  
263 statistically valid biennial analysis of the supply and demand  
264 of the behavioral health workforce.

265 2. Expand pathways to behavioral health professions  
266 through enhanced educational opportunities and improved faculty  
267 development and retention. The center's efforts may include, but  
268 need not be limited to:

269 a. Identifying best practices in the academic preparation  
270 and continuing education of behavioral health professionals.

271 b. Facilitating and coordinating the development of  
272 academic-practice partnerships that support behavioral health  
273 faculty employment and advancement.

274 c. Developing and implementing innovative projects to  
275 support the recruitment, development, and retention of

276 behavioral health educators, faculty, and clinical preceptors.

277 d. Developing distance learning infrastructure for  
278 behavioral health education and the evidence-based use of  
279 technology, simulation, and distance learning techniques.

280 3. Promote behavioral health professions. The center's  
281 efforts may include, but need not be limited to:

282 a. Conducting original research on the factors affecting  
283 recruitment, retention, and advancement of the behavioral health  
284 workforce, such as designing and implementing a longitudinal  
285 study of the state's behavioral health workforce.

286 b. Developing and implementing innovative projects to  
287 support the recruitment, development, and retention of  
288 behavioral health workers.

289 (b) The center may:

290 1. Convene groups, including, but not limited to,  
291 behavioral health clinicians, professionals, and workers;  
292 employers of such individuals; other health care providers;  
293 individuals with behavioral health conditions and their  
294 families; business and industry leaders; policymakers; and  
295 educators to assist the center in its work.

296 2. Request from any board as defined in s. 456.001, and  
297 the board must provide to the center upon its request, any  
298 information held by the board regarding a behavioral health  
299 professional licensed in this state or holding a multistate  
300 license pursuant to a professional multistate licensure compact

301 or information reported to the board by employers of such  
302 behavioral health professionals, other than personal identifying  
303 information.

304 (c) By January 10 of each year, the center shall submit a  
305 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
306 Speaker of the House of Representatives providing details of its  
307 activities during the preceding calendar year in pursuit of its  
308 goals and in the execution of its duties under paragraph (a).  
309 The report submitted in 2025, shall include an initial statewide  
310 strategic plan for meeting the goals in subsection (6), which  
311 shall be updated in each subsequent report.

312 (7) The Board of Governors and the State Board of  
313 Education, in consultation with the center, shall expeditiously  
314 adopt any necessary regulations and rules, as applicable, to  
315 allow the center to perform its responsibilities under  
316 subsection (6) and this subsection beginning in the 2025-2026  
317 fiscal year.

318 Section 5. Effective upon this act becoming a law, the  
319 Department of Children and Families must contract for a study of  
320 the current and projected future demand for inpatient treatment  
321 services for adults and children with serious mental illness,  
322 the state's current and projected future ability to meet that  
323 demand, and recommendations for enhancing the availability of  
324 inpatient treatment services and for providing alternatives to  
325 such services. The study must consider the demand for both civil

326 and forensic inpatient placements. The study must be completed  
327 by January 31, 2025, and at a minimum:

328 (1) Describe, by state treatment facility, the current  
329 number and allocation of beds for inpatient treatment between  
330 forensic and civil placements, number of individuals admitted  
331 and discharged annually, types and frequency of diagnoses, and  
332 lengths of stay.

333 (2) Describe, by department region, the current number and  
334 allocation of beds in receiving facilities for inpatient  
335 treatment between forensic and civil placements, number of  
336 individuals admitted and discharged annually, types and  
337 frequency of diagnoses, and lengths of stay.

338 (3) Specify the current and projected future demand for  
339 civil and forensic inpatient placements at state treatment  
340 facilities and at receiving facilities, by region; any gaps in  
341 current and future availability of these services compared to  
342 current service availability; and the number of inpatient beds  
343 needed by facility type, region of state, and placement type to  
344 meet current and projected future demand.

345 (4) Describe policy recommendations for ensuring  
346 sufficient bed capacity for longer-term involuntary treatment,  
347 either at the state treatment facilities or receiving  
348 facilities, and enhancing services that could prevent the need  
349 for involuntary inpatient placements.

350 Section 6. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this

CS/HB 1617

2024

351 | act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2024. |