

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Criminal Justice

[2025s00168.hms.cj]

BILL: CS/CS/SB 168
INTRODUCER: Senator Bradley
SUBJECT: Mental Health
DATE: May 1, 2025

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment – 149231 (body with title)

House Amendment – 463357 (body with title)

House Amendment – 870331 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment – 149231 removes the requirement for a hospital to offer or have applied to establish an accredited clinical psychology fellowship program as a condition to be designated as a Behavioral Health Teaching Hospital. Additionally, this amendment allows a university with an allopathic and osteopathic medical school to affiliate with one hospital for each type of medical school. Currently, a university may only affiliate with one hospital.

House Amendment – 463357 removes the nonrecurring appropriation of \$229,840 and the recurring appropriation of \$565,040 from the General Revenue Fund appropriated to the Northwest Regional Data Center to implement the Florida Behavioral Health Care Data Repository. The amendment requires the Northwest Regional Data Center to establish the Florida Behavioral Health Care Data Repository, develop and submit a plan, proposed budget, and reports to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House, as authorized by and consistent with funding specifically appropriated in the General Appropriations Act.

House Amendment – 870331 requires each judicial circuit to establish a misdemeanor and a felony diversion program and adopt the model process outlined in the bill. The amendment requires a jail or jail's corrections or medical staff to screen each defendant for mental illness within 24 hours after being booked into such facility. The amendment requires for a defendant with a mental illness to be assessed for outpatient treatment by a local mental health treatment center at the jail via telehealth assessment, at the local mental health treatment center with sheriff or jail transport to and from, or by releasing the defendant on his or her own recognizance on the conditions the assessment is completed within 48 hours. The amendment requires the court to set as a condition of continued pretrial release the defendant's compliance with all of the terms of the discharge plan or outpatient treatment plan. The amendment removes the requirement for a state attorney to consider dismissal of the charges for a defendant that has successfully

completed all of the treatment recommendations from any mental health treatment or assessment, and provides they may dismiss the charges. The amendment removes language encouraging communities desiring to establish a felony mental health diversion program to apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program for the purpose of obtaining funds to plan, implement, or expand such programs.