

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Civil Commitment-Miscellaneous Provisions

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Section

- 1 **Mentally ill person.** Modifies the definition of "mentally ill person" in the Civil Commitment Act in two respects. Current law provides that one evidence of mental illness is failure to obtain a list of kinds of self-care. The bill would change this item to reference (1) the unlikelihood that the person will care for self "without supervision and the assistance of others;" (2) self-protection and safety as additional kinds of self-care the person is not handling; and (3) substantial bodily harm, significant psychiatric deterioration or serious illness as probable outcomes of the person's behavior.
- 2 **Emergency hold.** Amends the standard for an emergency hold under the civil commitment act. Strikes the word "imminent" from the phrase that the proposed patient is in "imminent danger" of injuring self or others.
- 3 **Treatment alternatives.** Lengthens from ten to 30 days the maximum duration of hospitalization under the early intervention option in the civil commitment act.
- 4 **The petition.** Amends the provision on filing a commitment provision. Requires that if neuroleptic medication (one category of prescriptions for mental illness that carries risk of nerve damage) may be recommended for the patient, a request for a proceeding to authorize such medication must be included with the commitment petition. Currently, these can be handled in separate proceedings.