

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: 281 **DATE:** March 2, 2001
Version: Delete Everything Amendment
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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 inability of the person to care for self for reasons other than indigence, and (2) substantial harm, significant psychiatric deterioration or serious illness as probable outcomes of the person's behavior. Also adds a new kind of evidence of mental illness: recent and intentional conduct involving significant damage to substantial property.
- 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. Changes "restrained" to "detained" for greater accuracy.
- 3 **Treatment alternatives.** Lengthens from ten to 21 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.