

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Adding mental health crisis services to emergency services for health plans

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Overview

This bill requires health plans to include a mental health crisis in covered benefits and extends the definition of emergency services as an essential health benefit for purposes of the Affordable Care Act to include a mental health crisis. The bill also appropriates money to the commissioner of human services for crisis services purposes.

Section

- 1 **Emergency services.** Amends § 62Q.55, subd. 3. Adds mental health crisis to the definition of emergency services.
- 2 **Essential health benefits; definition.** Amends § 62Q.81, subd. 4. Includes mental health crisis services with emergency services under mandated essential health benefits.
- 3 **Instructions to the commissioner.** Requires the commissioner of human services to consult with stakeholders and develop recommendations on funding for children's mental health crisis residential services.
- 4 **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$3,500,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$4,500,000 in fiscal year 2017 to the commissioner of human services. Requires the funding be used for (1) creating a central phone number where calls can be routed to appropriate crisis services; (2) providing 24-hour telephone consultation to mobile crisis teams who are serving certain populations who are experiencing a mental health crisis; (3) expansion of crisis services in the state; (4) establishment and implementation of state standards for crisis services; and (5) providing grants to adult mental health initiatives, counties, tribes, or community mental health providers to establish new mental health crisis residential service capacity.

