

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 18-1245.01 Kip Kolkmeier x4510

SENATE BILL 18-270

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Jahn and Neville T.,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Pettersen and Wist,

Senate Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO COORDINATE**
102 **REFERRALS OF HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS IN NEED OF BEHAVIORAL**
103 **HEALTH TRANSITION SERVICES.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill establishes the community transition specialist program (program) in the office of behavioral health (office) in the department of human services (department). The program coordinates referrals of high-risk individuals to transition specialists by certain behavioral health facilities and programs. High-risk individuals are under an emergency or

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 27-65-108;

2 (III) LONG-TERM CARE AND TREATMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION
3 27-65-109;

4 (IV) AN EMERGENCY COMMITMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION
5 27-81-111 OR 27-82-107; OR

6 (V) AN INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION
7 27-81-112 OR 27-82-108;

8 (b) HAS A SIGNIFICANT MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE USE
9 DISORDER; AND

10 (c) IS NOT CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN CONSISTENT BEHAVIORAL
11 HEALTH TREATMENT.

12 (4) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN THE
13 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

14 (5) "TRANSITION SPECIALIST" MEANS A PERSON WHO ASSISTS
15 HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

16 (a) ACCESS TO HOUSING OR RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM PLACEMENT;

17 (b) ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT OR BENEFITS;

18 (c) ADVOCACY TO INSURANCE COMPANIES AND PROVIDERS FOR
19 THE APPROPRIATE TYPE AND INTENSITY OF MENTAL HEALTH OR
20 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES;

21 (d) PLANNING FOR FOLLOW-UP SERVICES AND COORDINATION
22 WITHIN THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM AFTER HOSPITALIZATION OR
23 DISCHARGE FROM A WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT FACILITY OR AN
24 EMERGENCY ROOM FOLLOWING A VISIT FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
25 REASONS:

26 (e) ASSISTANCE WITH PREPARING ADVANCE DIRECTIVES;

27 (f) OBTAINING A REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR GUARDIAN;

1 (g) FAMILY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES; OR

2 (h) COMPLIANCE WITH COURT APPEARANCES OR PROBATION.

3 (6) "WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT FACILITY" MEANS A FACILITY
4 THAT PROVIDES TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR SUPERVISED WITHDRAWAL FROM
5 ALCOHOL OR DRUGS IN A RESIDENTIAL SETTING.

6 **27-66.5-103. Community transition specialist program -**
7 **program requirements - acceptance of referrals - contract for**
8 **services - rules.** (1) THE COMMUNITY TRANSITION SPECIALIST PROGRAM
9 IS ESTABLISHED IN THE OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. THE PROGRAM
10 MUST COORDINATE REFERRALS OF HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS FROM
11 WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT FACILITIES AND HOSPITALS TO APPROPRIATE
12 TRANSITION SPECIALISTS.

13 (2) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2019, THE PROGRAM MUST BE
14 AVAILABLE STATEWIDE. THE PROGRAM MUST HAVE A PROCESS TO ACCEPT
15 REFERRALS FOR HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS AND COORDINATE CONTACT
16 BETWEEN REFERRED HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS AND APPROPRIATE
17 TRANSITION SPECIALISTS. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE COORDINATED
18 CONTACT MUST TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO THE RELEASE OR DISCHARGE OF THE
19 HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUAL FROM A FACILITY.

20 (3) THE PROGRAM MUST ENCOURAGE, BUT CANNOT REQUIRE,
21 WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT FACILITIES AND HOSPITALS TO CONTACT THE
22 PROGRAM BEFORE RELEASING OR DISCHARGING A HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUAL.

23 (4) THE PROGRAM MAY ENCOURAGE, BUT CANNOT REQUIRE, A
24 HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUAL TO ACCEPT SERVICES FROM A TRANSITION
25 SPECIALIST. PARTICIPATION BY A HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUAL IS VOLUNTARY
26 AND THE INDIVIDUAL HAS THE RIGHT TO DECLINE COMMUNITY TRANSITION
27 SPECIALIST SERVICES.

1 (5) THE OFFICE MAY CONTRACT WITH A VENDOR TO PROVIDE THE
2 REFERRAL AND COORDINATION SERVICES REQUIRED BY THIS ARTICLE 66.5.

3 (6) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2018, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
4 PROMULGATE RULES NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS
5 ARTICLE 66.5.

6 **27-66.5-104. Data collection and recommendations.** (1) THE
7 OFFICE SHALL COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING:

8 (a) CURRENT PRACTICES, CRITERIA, AND PROCEDURES REGARDING
9 FOLLOW-UP CARE FOR HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS RELEASED OR DISCHARGED
10 FROM EMERGENCY OR INVOLUNTARY HOLDS, CERTIFICATIONS, OR
11 COMMITMENTS; AND

12 (b) EXISTING CAPACITY TO SERVE HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS AFTER
13 RELEASE OR DISCHARGE.

14 (2) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2020, AND ON OR BEFORE JANUARY
15 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE OFFICE SHALL ANALYZE THE DATA
16 COLLECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION AND
17 PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO, AND
18 COORDINATION OF, TRANSITION SPECIALIST SERVICES FOR HIGH-RISK
19 INDIVIDUALS. THE RECOMMENDATIONS SHALL BE REPORTED TO THE
20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT AND SHALL BE INCLUDED IN
21 THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 27-66.5-105.

22 **27-66.5-105. Reporting requirements - "State Measurement**
23 **for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART)**
24 **Government Act" report.** THE OFFICE SHALL REPORT INFORMATION ON
25 THE COMMUNITY TRANSITION SPECIALIST PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT'S
26 ANNUAL PRESENTATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUIRED UNDER
27 THE "STATE MEASUREMENT FOR ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE, AND

1 TRANSPARENT (SMART) GOVERNMENT ACT", PART 2 OF ARTICLE 7 OF
2 TITLE 2.

3 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
4 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
5 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.