



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 616

Chairperson: Joel Johnson
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: February 22, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 616 amends the Behavioral Health Services Act to prohibit regional behavioral health authorities, also known as regions, from directly providing behavioral health services under the act, except under very limited circumstances, as already outlined in current law.

When the current Behavioral Health Services Act was adopted, it permitted regions to continue providing the services they were already providing on the effective date of the act (“grandfathered” services). Under the provisions of LB 616, the “grandfathering” provision would be removed, and the restrictions currently outlined in law would apply.

The restrictions on regions providing services were originally adopted to address the perceived or actual conflict of interest that existed because regions are both administrators of state funding for services and providers of those services. The intent of this legislation is to eliminate the “grandfathering” provision and to eliminate regions from providing services unless there are no qualified and willing private providers to make these services available within the region.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Dwite Pedersen