

right now, we haven't had the participation in the training that would benefit the system and so we require board members to have that training and we think that's a small step to take to improve the process. We also provide some protections to individuals under the Mental Health Commitment Act so that they know what it is that they're to comply with with the treatment plan, that they have some notice when changes are made on that plan and have some more information as an individual under the Mental Health Commitment Act to be able to follow what they're expected to do more clearly. In addition, the Mental Health Board is given more authority to hold a hearing to make sure that the individual is following their outpatient treatment conditions. As I said earlier, the bill defines outpatient treatment. This bill would also provide a way to follow up and make sure that that outpatient treatment plan was being followed and, again, that there would be periodic reports filed to...and also the ability to request a hearing by the individuals subject to this act so that they have some ability to respond to it as well. Perhaps, in many ways, this may not seem like major change but it is a fine-tuning of a system that is in need of attention and I think would be a major step forward to improve the Mental Health Commitment Act. So I would ask for your support for the advancement of the bill and would be happy to answer questions if you should have any.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Discussion on the bill. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Wesely, I just want to tell you or ask you if you believe that LB 678 would have a more significant impact on the rules governing criteria for commitment than it would on the actual Mental Health Board training.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely, would you respond, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Can you repeat the question again? I didn't quite...

SENATOR ROBAK: The Monroe Mental Health Center, it seems to me that this bill would have more of an impact on the rules governing criteria for commitment than on Mental Health Board training, itself, which is what your bill is, is it not?

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, the answer to that question, Senator