

~~SERVICES SHALL REPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE EFFECT OF THE INCREASED STAFF PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION ON:~~

~~(1) THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAM BENEFITS COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE RELEASE OF INMATES WITH A SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS AND RATES OF APPROVAL FOR THESE APPLICATIONS;~~

~~(2) CHANGES IN RECIDIVISM RATES FOR INMATES WITH A SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS AS A RESULT OF IMPROVED ACCESS TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS; AND~~

~~(3) RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXPAND BENEFITS COORDINATION SUPPORT FOR INMATES IN PRISONS AND JAILS.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

~~(a) The Mental Hygiene Administration shall develop an implementation plan requiring each core service agency in the State to develop a forensic alternative services team:~~

~~(1) that is staffed by mental health professionals to serve each district court, jail, and booking facility in the jurisdiction of the core service agency;~~

~~(2) that is able to divert arrested individuals with a serious mental illness or trauma related disorder from incarceration by arranging needed community services, including outpatient or inpatient services prior to bail review hearings or within 30 days of incarceration; and~~

~~(3) that may advocate before the court for release to the community with a plan agreed to by the defendant that may include ongoing treatment, housing, and monitoring if the charges made against the individual are not dismissed.~~

(a) (1) The Mental Hygiene Administration shall develop a plan for the State to divert individuals with serious mental illnesses who come in contact with the criminal justice system to inpatient or outpatient mental health services if such services are more appropriate than confinement of the individual in a correctional facility.

(2) If determined to be feasible and appropriate, the plan required under this section shall include: