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H.3

Introduced by Representative Anthony of Barre City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; mental health; municipalities; law enforcement; mental health  
provider collaboration

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a  
grant program to fund the provision of services by mental health providers in  
collaboration with municipal police departments.

An act relating to the provision of grants for mental health providers  
working in collaboration with municipal police departments

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 207 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 207. COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND  
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Subchapter 1. Designated and Nondesignated Agencies

§ 8901. PURPOSE

\* \* \*

1                                    Subchapter 2. Community Programs

2                    § 8921. GRANT PROGRAM; MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER AND  
3                                    MUNICIPAL POLICING COLLABORATIONS

4                    (a) The Department of Mental Health shall administer a grant program for  
5                    the purpose of funding services by a mental health provider working in  
6                    collaboration with municipal police departments. Grants shall fund half of the  
7                    costs associated with services provided by a mental health provider who is  
8                    employed by an agency designated pursuant to section 8907 of this title. The  
9                    Commissioner shall award grants to all applicants that meet the criteria set  
10                   forth in statute and rule.

11                   (b) A designated agency, in collaboration with one or more municipal  
12                   police departments from within a designated agency's service region, may  
13                   submit a grant application to the Department each year during the period  
14                   specified by the Department in rule. Applications to fund multiple mental  
15                   health provider positions within a municipality shall be considered to the  
16                   extent that the proposal reflects the municipality's population. Successful  
17                   grant applicants shall:

18                   (1) describe the proposed collaboration between the designated agency  
19                   and the collaborating municipal police department, including the mental health  
20                   provider's anticipated duties, work hours, and any specialized training  
21                   necessary;

1           (2) document necessary authorization for the mental health provider to  
2           accompany police officers responding to emergencies involving individuals in  
3           mental health crisis, including any necessary insurance coverage for the mental  
4           health provider;

5           (3) demonstrate that the collaborating municipality has approved  
6           appropriating 50 percent of the total cost associated with the mental health  
7           provider's services from local budgets; and

8           (4) document that the collaborating municipal police department  
9           operates on a full-time basis and that the municipality has a population of at  
10          least 2,500 residents.

11          (c) Awards granted by the Commissioner under this section shall be  
12          provided directly to the applying agency.

13          (d) Pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, the Commissioner shall adopt rules  
14          necessary to administer the grant program established in this section. Rules  
15          shall address:

16               (1) timelines for application and reapplication;

17               (2) additional application criteria; and

18               (3) procedures for review of grant expenditures and program evaluation.

1       Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION

2           In fiscal year 2024, \$800,000.00 is appropriated for the purpose of funding  
3           grants pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 8921 (grant program; mental health provider  
4           and municipal policing collaborations).

5       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

6           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.