

MAR 19 2001
Place On Calendar

4/10/01 Rereferred To: Judiciary

HOUSE FILE 645
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 563)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for a study by the judicial branch concerning
2 the establishment of mental health courts.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 645

1 Section 1. JUDICIAL BRANCH -- MENTAL HEALTH COURT STUDY.
 2 The judicial branch may conduct a study to determine the
 3 possible establishment of mental health courts for nonviolent
 4 criminal offenders who suffer from mental illness. The
 5 judicial branch may solicit input from members of the criminal
 6 justice system, including, but not limited to, judges,
 7 prosecutors, and defense counsel, and members of the mental
 8 health treatment community. The judicial branch shall
 9 consider whether a study commission should be established, and
 10 if established, the duties, scope, and membership of the
 11 commission. The judicial branch shall also consider the
 12 feasibility of establishing a demonstration mental health
 13 court. The judicial branch may submit a report on the study,
 14 and make recommendations, to the general assembly by October
 15 1, 2002.

EXPLANATION

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 17 This bill authorizes the judicial branch to conduct a study
 18 concerning the possible establishment of a mental health court
 19 in Iowa for nonviolent criminal offenders who suffer from
 20 mental illness. The judicial branch may submit a report on
 21 the study to the general assembly by October 1, 2002.

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**HOUSE FILE 645
FISCAL NOTE**

A fiscal note for **House File 645** is hereby submitted pursuant to Joint Rule 17. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.

House File 645 authorizes the Judicial Branch to conduct a study concerning the possible establishment of a Mental Health Court in Iowa for nonviolent criminal offenders who suffer from mental illness. The Judicial Branch may submit a report on the study to the General Assembly by October 1, 2002.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. The Judicial Branch may conduct a study to determine the possible establishment of Mental Health Courts for nonviolent criminal offenders who suffer from mental illness.
2. If the Judicial Branch authorizes the interim study, the cost would be \$1,000 per day for a minimum of ten days.
3. The Judicial Branch estimates the study committee would have nine to fifteen members.
4. No experts or consultants would be paid additional dollars for their expertise.
5. On November 13, 2000, the United States Congress enacted legislation establishing demonstration Mental Health Courts. The Act is entitled America's Law Enforcement and Mental Health Project. The Bill establishes a competitive grant through the Attorney General's Office not to exceed 75% of the total cost of the Program.

FISCAL IMPACT

If the Judicial Department conducts a Mental Health Study for Iowa, the General Fund cost would be approximately \$15,000.

SOURCE

Judicial Department

(LSB 1332HV, JDD)

FILED MARCH 22, 2001

BY DENNIS PROUTY, FISCAL DIRECTOR