

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

BILL B

LLS NO. 26-0121.01 Shelby Ross x4510

HOUSE BILL

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bradfield and Rydin, Jackson

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Amabile and Michaelson Jenet,

House Committees

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING TREATING INDIVIDUALS WITH A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
102 **DISORDER, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REIMBURSING**
103 **LICENSED PROVIDERS WHO ADMINISTER MEDICATION-ASSISTED**
104 **TREATMENT AND PROVIDING PROTECTIONS RELATED TO SECURE**
105 **TRANSPORTATION FOR PERSONS EXPERIENCING A BEHAVIORAL**
106 **HEALTH CRISIS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning the Treatment

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems. Current law requires the department of health care policy and financing to provide medicaid reimbursement to opioid treatment programs for administering medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in a jail setting. **Section 1** of the bill expands medicaid reimbursement to include licensed providers who administer MAT in a jail setting.

Current law excludes personnel employed by or contracted with a law enforcement agency from the definition of "secure transportation". **Section 2** removes this exclusion to allow entities that contract with law enforcement agencies to provide secure transportation.

Sections 3 and 4 transfer the licensing authority for secure transportation providers from the counties to the department of public health and environment beginning January 1, 2027.

Sections 6 through 10 make changes to the secure transportation requirements and petition filing requirements related to emergency mental health holds and short-term and long-term certifications, including:

- Expanding the transportation provider types that may be contacted for assistance in detaining and transporting a person to a facility for an emergency mental health hold to include a behavioral health crisis response team, a private ambulance service provider, a private emergency medical services provider, and a secure transportation provider;
- Requiring a certified peace officer to advise the person being taken into protective custody that the person is not under arrest and has not committed a crime;
- Requiring the petition for a court-ordered evaluation to include any known history of the respondent's history of assault or possession of weapons and whether the respondent has a prior history of an emergency mental health hold or short-term or long-term certification; and
- Creating a right for a person detained for an emergency mental health hold to not be transported by a certified peace officer if an alternative secure transportation option is available.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-4-505.5, **amend**
3 (5) as follows:

4 **25.5-4-505.5. Federal authorization related to persons involved**
5 **in the criminal justice system - report - rules - legislative declaration.**

1 (5) (a) The state department shall ~~only~~ reimburse ~~an opioid treatment~~
2 ~~program, as defined in section 27-80-203;~~ A PROVIDER LICENSED AND
3 AUTHORIZED TO PRESCRIBE, DISPENSE, COMPOUND, OR ADMINISTER
4 MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT for administering medication-assisted
5 treatment in a jail setting. ~~At a minimum, an opioid treatment program~~
6 ~~that administers medication-assisted treatment shall:~~

7 (I) ~~Employ a physician medical director;~~

8 (II) ~~Ensure the individual receiving medication-assisted treatment~~
9 ~~undergoes a minimum observation period after receiving~~
10 ~~medication-assisted treatment as determined by behavioral health~~
11 ~~administration rule pursuant to section 27-80-204; and~~

12 (III) ~~Meet all critical incident reporting requirements as~~
13 ~~determined by behavioral health administration rule pursuant to section~~
14 ~~27-80-204.~~

15 (b) The state department shall ensure as part of the state
16 department's quality oversight that ~~opioid treatment programs that~~
17 LICENSED PROVIDERS WHO administer medication-assisted treatment in a
18 jail setting maintain emergency policies and procedures that address
19 adverse outcomes.

20 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-3.5-103, **amend**
21 (11.4)(c) as follows:

22 **25-3.5-103. Definitions.** As used in this article 3.5, unless the
23 context otherwise requires:

24 (11.4) (c) "Secure transportation" does not include urgent
25 transportation services provided by law enforcement ~~or personnel~~
26 ~~employed by or contracted with a law enforcement agency~~ to individuals
27 experiencing a behavioral health crisis; except that any member of a

1 co-responder team who is not law enforcement or personnel employed by
2 or contracted with a law enforcement agency and who holds a valid
3 license for secure transportation by the county in which the secure
4 transportation originates, in a vehicle with a valid permit issued by the
5 county in which the secure transportation originates, and which meets the
6 minimum requirements for secure transportation established by rule
7 pursuant to section 25-3.5-311 may provide urgent secure transportation
8 services.

9 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-3.5-309, **amend**
10 (1)(a) as follows:

11 **25-3.5-309. Secure transportation - license required - fees -**
12 **exceptions.** (1) (a) After ~~January 1, 2023~~ JANUARY 1, 2027, an entity
13 shall not provide public or private secure transportation services, as
14 defined in section 25-3.5-103 (11.4), in this state unless ~~that~~ THE entity
15 holds a valid license issued by the ~~board of county commissioners of the~~
16 ~~county~~ DEPARTMENT AND THE ENTITY HAS OBTAINED AUTHORIZATION TO
17 OPERATE FROM THE LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY FOR THE COUNTY OR
18 CITY AND COUNTY in which the secure transportation service is based;
19 except that entities described in subsection (2) of this section may provide
20 secure transportation services.

21 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-3.5-310, **amend**
22 (1) and (2) as follows:

23 **25-3.5-310. Secure transportation - issuance of licenses and**
24 **permits - term - requirements.** (1) (a) After receipt of an original
25 application for a license to provide public or private secure transportation
26 services, the ~~board of county commissioners of the county in which the~~
27 ~~secure transportation service is based~~ DEPARTMENT shall review the

1 application, the applicant's record, and the applicant's equipment, as well
2 as the applicant's training and operating procedures. In order to be
3 approved for a license, the applicant must provide evidence that the
4 applicant's equipment and training and operating procedures meet or
5 exceed the minimum requirements established by the state board of health
6 pursuant to section 25-3.5-311. ~~The board of county commissioners of~~
7 ~~any county may impose, by resolution, additional requirements for secure~~
8 ~~transportation that is based in that county.~~

9 (b) If an applicant is approved pursuant to subsection (1)(a) of this
10 section, ~~the board of county commissioners of the county in which the~~
11 ~~secure transportation service is based~~ DEPARTMENT shall issue a license,
12 valid for three years, to the applicant to provide secure transportation
13 services. The board of county commissioners of the county in which the
14 secure transportation service is based shall ~~also~~ issue a permit, valid for
15 twelve months after the date of issuance, for each vehicle used by the
16 licensee if the vehicles and equipment meet or exceed the minimum
17 requirements established by the state board of health pursuant to section
18 25-3.5-311.

19 (2) Any license or permit issued pursuant to this section, unless
20 revoked by the DEPARTMENT OR board of county commissioners of the
21 county in which the secure transportation service is based, may be
22 renewed by filing an application, as applicable for an original license or
23 permit. Applications for permit renewal must be filed annually, but not
24 less than thirty days before the date the permit expires.

25 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-65-102, **add**
26 (30.5) as follows:

27 **27-65-102. Definitions.** As used in this article 65, unless the

1 context otherwise requires:

2 (30.5) "SECURE TRANSPORT PERSONNEL" MEANS THE FOLLOWING
3 PERSONNEL IN ORDER OF PRIORITY:

4 (a) A SECURE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER;

5 (b) A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM;

6 (c) A PRIVATE AMBULANCE PROVIDER; OR

7 (d) A PRIVATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER.

8 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-65-106, **amend**
9 (1)(a), (2), (4)(a)(III), (4)(a)(IV), (4)(a)(V), (4)(d), (10)(a)(XVI), and
10 (10)(a)(XVII); and **add** (4)(a)(VI), (8)(f), and (10)(a)(XVIII) as follows:

11 **27-65-106. Emergency mental health hold - screening -**
12 **court-ordered evaluation - discharge instructions - respondent's**
13 **rights.** (1) An emergency mental health hold may be invoked under one
14 of the following conditions:

15 (a) (I) When a certified peace officer has probable cause to
16 believe a person has a mental health disorder and, as a result of the mental
17 health disorder, is an imminent danger to the person's self or others or is
18 gravely disabled, the certified peace officer may take the person into
19 protective custody and transport the person to a facility designated by the
20 commissioner for an emergency mental health hold. If ~~such~~ a facility is
21 not available, the certified peace officer may transport the person to an
22 emergency medical services facility. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE
23 CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER SHALL ADVISE THE PERSON THAT THE PEACE
24 OFFICER IS TAKING THE PERSON INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY AND
25 TRANSPORTING THE PERSON TO A FACILITY FOR AN EMERGENCY MENTAL
26 HEALTH HOLD AND THAT THE PERSON IS NOT UNDER ARREST AND HAS NOT
27 COMMITTED A CRIME. The certified peace officer may request assistance

1 from a behavioral health crisis response team for assistance in detaining
2 ~~and transporting the person or an emergency medical services provider in~~
3 ~~transporting the person; or~~ SECURE TRANSPORT PERSONNEL FOR
4 ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORTING THE PERSON.

5 (II) When an intervening professional reasonably believes that a
6 person appears to have a mental health disorder and, as a result of the
7 mental health disorder, appears to be an imminent danger to the person's
8 self or others or appears to be gravely disabled, the intervening
9 professional may cause the person to be taken into protective custody and
10 transported to a facility designated by the commissioner for an emergency
11 mental health hold. ~~If such a facility is not available, the certified peace~~
12 ~~officer may transport the person to an emergency medical services~~
13 ~~facility.~~ IF REASONABLE, the intervening professional ~~may~~ SHALL request
14 assistance from ~~a certified peace officer, a secure transportation provider,~~
15 ~~or a behavioral health crisis response team~~ SECURE TRANSPORT
16 PERSONNEL for assistance in ~~detaining and~~ transporting the person. ~~or~~
17 ~~assistance from an emergency medical services provider in transporting~~
18 ~~the person.~~ IF THE INTERVENING PROFESSIONAL DETERMINES THAT
19 TRANSPORTATION BY A CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER IS REQUIRED, THE
20 INTERVENING PROFESSIONAL SHALL REQUEST TRANSPORTATION
21 ASSISTANCE FROM A PEACE OFFICER AND DOCUMENT AND ARTICULATE
22 THE REASONING FOR THE DETERMINATION. IF SUCH A FACILITY IS NOT
23 AVAILABLE, THE CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER MAY TRANSPORT THE PERSON
24 TO AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FACILITY.

25 (2) When a person is taken into custody pursuant to subsection (1)
26 of this section, the person must not be detained in a jail, lockup, or other
27 place used for the confinement of persons charged with or convicted of

1 penal offenses. Unless otherwise required by law, a certified peace officer
2 may transport the person to an emergency medical services facility or
3 facility designated by the commissioner even if a warrant has been issued
4 for the person's arrest if the certified peace officer believes it is in the best
5 interest of the person. The person must not be held on an emergency
6 mental health hold for longer than seventy-two hours after the hold is
7 placed or ordered. Nothing in this section prohibits an emergency medical
8 services facility OR AN AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDER from involuntarily
9 holding the person in order to stabilize the person as required pursuant to
10 the federal "Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act", 42 U.S.C.
11 sec. 1395dd, or if the treating professional determines that the individual's
12 physical or mental health disorder impairs the person's ability to make an
13 informed decision to refuse care and the provider determines that further
14 care is indicated.

15 (4) (a) The petition for a court-ordered evaluation filed pursuant
16 to subsection (1)(b) of this section must contain the following:

17 (III) Allegations of fact indicating that the respondent may have
18 a mental health disorder and, as a result of the mental health disorder, be
19 a danger to the respondent's self or others or be gravely disabled and
20 showing reasonable grounds to warrant an evaluation, INCLUDING ANY
21 KNOWN HISTORY OF ASSAULT OR POSSESSION OF WEAPONS;

22 (IV) The name and address of every person known or believed by
23 the petitioner to be legally responsible for the care, support, and
24 maintenance of the respondent, if available; ~~and~~

25 (V) The name, address, and telephone number of the attorney, if
26 any, who has most recently represented the respondent; AND

27 (VI) THE RESPONDENT'S PRIOR HISTORY OF AN EMERGENCY

1 MENTAL HEALTH HOLD OR SHORT-TERM OR LONG-TERM CERTIFICATION,
2 IF KNOWN.

3 (d) Whenever it appears, by petition and screening pursuant to this
4 section, to the satisfaction of the court that probable cause exists to
5 believe that the respondent has a mental health disorder and, as a result
6 of the mental health disorder, is a danger to the respondent's self or others
7 or is gravely disabled and that efforts have been made to secure the
8 cooperation of the respondent but the respondent has refused or failed to
9 accept evaluation voluntarily, the court shall issue an order for evaluation
10 authorizing ~~a certified peace officer or secure transportation provider to~~
11 ~~take the respondent into custody and~~ SECURE TRANSPORT PERSONNEL TO
12 transport the respondent to a facility designated by the commissioner for
13 an emergency mental health hold. If the court determines that
14 SECURE TRANSPORT PERSONNEL ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO TRANSPORT THE
15 RESPONDENT TO A DESIGNATED FACILITY, THE COURT MAY ORDER A
16 CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER TO TAKE THE RESPONDENT INTO CUSTODY AND
17 TRANSPORT THE RESPONDENT TO THE DESIGNATED FACILITY. A COPY OF
18 THE PETITION AND ORDER FOR EVALUATION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE
19 SECURE TRANSPORT PERSONNEL OR CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER AS SOON AS
20 POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER THE ORDER IS
21 ISSUED. At the time the respondent is taken into custody, a copy of the
22 petition and the order for evaluation must be given to the respondent and
23 promptly thereafter to the one lay person designated by the respondent
24 and to the person in charge of the facility named in the order or the
25 respondent's designee. If the respondent refuses to accept a copy of the
26 petition and the order for evaluation, such refusal must be documented in
27 the petition and the order for evaluation.

1 (8) (f) THE FACILITY MAY DISCLOSE THE DISPOSITION OF THE
2 PERSON DETAINED FOR AN EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH HOLD TO LAW
3 ENFORCEMENT.

4 (10) (a) A person detained for an emergency mental health hold
5 pursuant to this section has the following rights:

6 (XVI) To have personal privacy to the extent possible during the
7 course of treatment; ~~and~~

8 (XVII) To have the ability to meet with visitors in accordance
9 with the facility's current visitor guidelines; AND

10 (XVIII) TO NOT BE TRANSPORTED BY A CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER
11 IF AN ALTERNATIVE SECURE TRANSPORTATION OPTION IS AVAILABLE.

12 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-65-107, **amend**
13 **(2)** as follows:

14 **27-65-107. Emergency transportation - application - screening**
15 **- respondent's rights.** (2) When a person is transported against the
16 person's will pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the facility shall
17 require an application, in writing, stating the circumstances under which
18 the person's condition was called to the attention of the certified peace
19 officer or emergency medical services provider and further stating
20 sufficient facts, obtained from personal observations or obtained from
21 others whom the certified peace officer or emergency medical services
22 provider reasonably believes to be reliable, to establish that the person is
23 experiencing a behavioral health crisis or is gravely disabled and, as a
24 result, it is believed that without professional intervention the person may
25 be a danger to the person's self or others. The application must indicate
26 the name of the person, ~~and~~ the time the person was transported, AND, IF
27 APPLICABLE, THE REASON WHY AN ALTERNATIVE TO A CERTIFIED PEACE

1 OFFICER WAS NOT USED WHEN TRANSPORTING THE PERSON. A copy of the
2 application must be furnished to the person being transported.

3 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-65-109, **amend**
4 (8) as follows:

5 **27-65-109. Certification for short-term treatment - procedure.**

6 (8) Whenever it appears to the court, by reason of a report by the treating
7 professional person or the BHA or any other report satisfactory to the
8 court, that a respondent detained for evaluation and treatment or certified
9 for short-term treatment should be transferred to another facility for
10 treatment and the safety of the respondent or the public requires that the
11 respondent be transported by a secure transportation provider, ~~or a law~~
12 ~~enforcement agency,~~ the court may issue an order directing ~~the law~~
13 ~~enforcement agency where the respondent resides or~~ A secure
14 transportation provider to deliver the respondent to the designated facility.
15 IF THE COURT DETERMINES THAT A SECURE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER
16 IS NOT AVAILABLE TO TRANSPORT THE RESPONDENT TO THE DESIGNATED
17 FACILITY, THE COURT MAY ISSUE AN ORDER DIRECTING THE LAW
18 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WHERE THE RESPONDENT RESIDES TO TRANSPORT
19 THE RESPONDENT TO THE DESIGNATED FACILITY.

20 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-65-110, **amend**
21 (6) as follows:

22 **27-65-110. Long-term care and treatment of persons with**
23 **mental health disorders - procedure.** (6) A respondent certified for
24 long-term care and treatment may be discharged from the facility upon
25 the signature of the treating professional person and medical director of
26 the facility, and the facility shall notify the BHA prior to the respondent's
27 discharge. The facility shall make the respondent's discharge instructions

1 available to the respondent, the respondent's attorney, the respondent's lay
2 person, and the respondent's legal guardian, if applicable, within one
3 week after discharge, if requested. A facility that is transferring a
4 respondent to a different facility or to an outpatient program shall provide
5 all treatment records to the facility or provider accepting the respondent
6 at least twenty-four hours prior to the transfer. IF THE TREATING
7 PROFESSIONAL OR MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE FACILITY DETERMINES THE
8 SAFETY OF THE RESPONDENT REQUIRES THAT THE RESPONDENT BE
9 TRANSPORTED BY A SECURE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER, THE FACILITY
10 SHALL ATTEMPT TO UTILIZE ANY AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER
11 PRIOR TO REQUESTING TRANSPORTATION BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT
12 AGENCY.

13 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-65-111, **amend**
14 (3), (6)(i), and (6)(j); and **add** (6)(k) as follows:

15 **27-65-111. Certification on an outpatient basis - short-term**
16 **and long-term care.** (3) The facility responsible for providing services
17 to a respondent on a certification on an outpatient basis shall proactively
18 reach out to the respondent to engage the respondent in treatment. If the
19 respondent refuses treatment or court-ordered medication and is
20 decompensating psychiatrically AND THE COURT DETERMINES THAT AN
21 ALTERNATIVE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR SECURE TRANSPORTATION DOES
22 NOT EXIST OR IS NOT AVAILABLE WITHIN A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME,
23 the court may order a certified peace officer ~~or secure transportation~~
24 ~~provider~~ to transport the respondent to an appropriate, least restrictive
25 designated facility in collaboration with the BHA and the provider
26 holding the certification. The respondent does not need to be imminently
27 dangerous to the respondent's self or others for the provider to request,

1 and the court to order, transportation to a facility for the respondent to
2 receive treatment and court-ordered medications. The facility responsible
3 for providing services to a respondent on a certification on an outpatient
4 basis shall provide the court information on the facility's proactive
5 outreach to the respondent and the professional person's and psychiatric
6 advanced practice registered nurse's basis for medical opinion, AND WHAT
7 ALTERNATIVES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR SECURE TRANSPORTATION
8 EXIST. IF A CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER IS ORDERED TO TAKE THE
9 RESPONDENT INTO CUSTODY AND TRANSPORT THE RESPONDENT, THE
10 COURT SHALL NOTIFY THE CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER OF ANY KNOWN PRIOR
11 HISTORY OF AN EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH HOLD OR SHORT-TERM OR
12 LONG-TERM CERTIFICATION, OR ANY KNOWN PRIOR HISTORY RELATED TO
13 ASSAULT OR POSSESSION OF A WEAPON.

14 (6) A respondent subject to a short-term or long-term certification
15 on an outpatient basis has the following rights, in addition to those
16 enumerated in section 27-65-119:

17 (i) To have access to a representative within the facility who
18 provides assistance to file a grievance; ~~and~~

19 (j) To have the right to file a motion with the court at any time to
20 contest the certification; AND

21 (k) TO NOT BE TRANSPORTED BY A CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER IF AN
22 ALTERNATIVE SECURE TRANSPORTATION OPTION IS AVAILABLE.

23 **SECTION 11. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
24 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
25 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
26 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
27 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the

1 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
2 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
3 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
4 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
5 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.