

SCS SB 501 -- OFFICE OF COMPREHENSIVE CHILD MENTAL HEALTH

SPONSOR: Gibbons (Stefanick)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute establishes the Office of Comprehensive Child Mental Health within the Department of Mental Health to implement a comprehensive child mental health service system plan. The office will provide oversight, support, training, and coordination with other departments participating in the development and implementation of the plan.

The Comprehensive Child Mental Health Clinical Advisory Council is also established and will include at least 10 members from the following areas: pediatric medicine, child psychiatry, child psychology, social work, clinical counseling, school psychologist, research, financing, and evaluation. Members of the council will share information, identify funding and research opportunities, and advise the department on how to provide a comprehensive child mental health system.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will provide a formal structure and direction to child mental health agencies as outlined in last year's SB 1003.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Gibbons; and Department of Mental Health.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Dominic Lackey, Legislative Analyst