

HB 535 -- Mental Health Facilities

Sponsor: Walsh

This bill adds direct care staff of privately funded day program facilities licensed by the Department of Mental Health to the list of mandatory reporters who must report to the Department of Mental Health or the Department of Health and Senior Services when they believe a patient, resident, or client of a facility has been abused or neglected. The Department of Mental Health is required to terminate a contract with a vendor having a pattern or practice of abuse and neglect of patients or mishandling of client funds or property.

The department director is also required to submit a cost-benefit analysis and written plan prior to the closure or downsizing of any facility to the appropriations committees on mental health of the Senate and House of Representatives for their consideration.