

HB 1969 -- Department of Mental Health Protection Measures

Sponsor: Bivins

This bill creates the crime of endangering a Department of Mental Health employee, a visitor or other person at a secure facility, or another offender when a person attempts to cause or knowingly causes these individuals to come into contact with blood, seminal fluid, urine, feces, or saliva. Anyone committing this crime will be guilty of a class D felony unless the substance is unidentified in which case it will be a class A misdemeanor. If the person committing the crime is knowingly infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis C, or hepatitis B and exposes another person to the illness in the commission of the crime, he or she will be guilty of a class C felony.

The bill also expands the list of criminal offenses that disqualify a person from holding a direct-care position in any facility or program operated, funded, or licensed by the department or any other mental health facility or program in which people are admitted voluntarily or are civilly detained.