

SCS SB 774 -- DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

This bill changes the laws regarding Department of Mental Health protection measures and overdue patient accounts for mental health services.

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH PROTECTION MEASURES

The crime of endangering a department employee, a visitor or other person at a secure facility, or another offender is created. A person committed to the department for treatment after a court determination that he or she is a sexually violent predator who attempts to cause or knowingly causes one of these individuals to come into contact with blood, seminal fluid, urine, feces, or saliva 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 B, or hepatitis C and exposes another person to the illness in the commission of the crime, he or she will be guilty of a class C felony.

OVERDUE PATIENT ACCOUNTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Currently, an overdue patient account of a residential facility or day program under the control of the department which is submitted to a court for collection must be certified by the head of the residential facility or day program, with the seal of the institution attached, in order to constitute prima facie evidence of the amount due. The bill requires the certification to be completed by the department director or his or her designee instead of the head of the facility or program.