



S.F. No. 1492 – Civil Commitment Coordinating Division

Author: Senator Ron Latz

Prepared by: Priyanka Premo, Senate Counsel (priyanka.premo@mnsenate.gov)

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Overview

S.F. 1492 establishes the Civil Commitment Coordinating Division within the Office of the Attorney General, establishes a Civil Commitment Advisory Committee, requires counties to complete diversion studies, requires the civil commitment coordinator to administer grants to counties and provide reports to the legislature, and appropriates a to-be-determined amount to the attorney general.

Summary

Section 1 (8.37; Civil commitment coordinating division) establishes the Civil Commitment Coordinating Division and requires the attorney general to appoint a civil commitment coordinator. The civil commitment coordinator must maintain the Civil Commitment Advisory Committee; provide guidance regarding engagement services, outpatient civil commitment, and provisional discharge; advocate for increased statewide capacity for engagement services, outpatient civil commitment, and provisional discharge; provide technical assistance to those charged with monitoring civilly committed participants; aggregate and analyze data; educate the public; administer diversion study grants; and administer engagement services, outpatient civil commitment, and provisional discharge grants.

The attorney general must establish the Civil Commitment Advisory Committee to advise the civil commitment coordinator. The committee must consist of 11 to 20 members, including the attorney general, the chief executive officer of Direct Care and Treatment, the commissioner of public safety, a member representing district court judges, a member representing district court administrators, a member representing counties, a member who was previously civilly committed, and a family member of a person currently or previously civilly committed. Members serve without compensation.

Section 2 (8.38; Diversion studies) requires each county to conduct diversion studies, in accordance with uniform guidelines set by the civil commitment coordinator, and provide diversion study data and narratives to the civil commitment coordinator by October 1, 2027,

and every two years thereafter. A diversion study must examine the county's behavioral health system's capacity to divert people who have a mental illness, developmental disability, or chemical use disorder away from the criminal justice system and into treatment. The civil commitment coordinator must submit a report to the legislature by April 1, 2028, and every two years thereafter, summarizing county-level data related to diversion studies, and must establish a diversion study grant program for counties to develop an action plan.

Section 3 (8.39; Engagement services, outpatient civil commitment, and provisional discharge grants) requires the civil commitment coordinator to establish engagement services, outpatient civil commitment, and provisional discharge grants to provide counties with supplemental funding to expand the capacity to provide these services. All grantees must use a portion of the awarded funds for certain purposes, as determined by the civil commitment coordinator, including education, outreach, hiring additional staff, and supplemental funding for engagement services, outpatient civil commitment, and provisional discharge. By October 1, 2027, and every two years thereafter, all grant recipients must submit to the civil commitment coordinator deidentified data on individuals who received engagement services, were civilly committed, were accepted into a treatment facility or community-based treatment program, or were provisionally discharged. The civil commitment coordinator must evaluate the impact of supplemental funding and submit a report to the legislature by April 1, 2028, and every two years thereafter.

Section 4 (Appropriation; civil commitment coordinating division) appropriates a to-be-determined amount in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 from the general fund to the attorney general for the Civil Commitment Coordinating Division and requires specific uses for the appropriation, including for an additional staff members to serve as the civil commitment coordinator, data analytic services, and a public awareness campaign.

Section 5 (Appropriation; diversion study grants) appropriates a to-be-determined amount in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 from the general fund to the attorney general for diversion study grants.

Section 6 (Appropriation; engagement services, outpatient civil commitment, and provisional discharge grants) appropriates a to-be-determined amount in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 from the general fund to the attorney general for engagement services, outpatient civil commitment, and provisional discharge grants.



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95 University Ave. W., STE 3300, Saint Paul, MN, 55155