



SPONSOR: Sen. Hansen & Sen. Poore & Rep. Minor-Brown
Sens. Brown, Buckson, Hoffner, Lockman, Pettyjohn,
Pinkney, Wilson; Reps. Baumbach, Briggs King

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

REQUESTING THAT THE DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH ASSESS THE
FEASIBILITY OF REPLACING THE DELAWARE PSYCHIATRIC CENTER.

1 WHEREAS, beginning with the establishment of the Delaware State Hospital at Farnhurst in 1889, the State has
2 continuously operated a psychiatric hospital for over 130 years on what is now known as the Department of Health and
3 Social Services' Herman M. Holloway, Sr. Campus ("Holloway Campus"); and

4 WHEREAS, the State's psychiatric hospital, now known as the Delaware Psychiatric Center ("DPC"), is a vital
5 part of the continuum of recovery services, providing a treatment component in Delaware's behavioral healthcare system to
6 assess, evaluate, and treat people with the most complex psychiatric conditions who are at risk of harm to self or others and
7 who cannot be effectively treated by existing available services in the community; and

8 WHEREAS, under § 7908(c)(5) of Title 29, the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health in the
9 Department of Health and Social Services' ("DHSS") is responsible for the operation of DPC, including maintaining the
10 forensic unit required under Chapter 51 of Title 16; and

11 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has further expressed the intent and policy of continuing the operation of DPC
12 under Chapter 51 of Title 16, by providing for DPC's Director and giving DHSS responsibility for the property of DPC;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, on average, the buildings comprising DPC are more than 50 years old and require extensive
15 maintenance and upkeep; and

16 WHEREAS, over 20 years ago, replacing DPC's facilities was part of the master plan for the redesign of the
17 Holloway Campus; and

18 WHEREAS, by 2007, the State had invested more than \$10 million in redesigning the Holloway Campus,
19 including completing design work, demolition of buildings, asbestos abatement, historical review, geotechnical and utility
20 surveys, and site preparation; and

21 WHEREAS, in May of 2007, all work on the new facilities was halted; and

22 WHEREAS, in December of 2007, the Governor’s Task Force on the Delaware Psychiatric Center (“Task Force”)
23 published a report stating that DPC’s facilities were “outdated, costly to maintain, and in need of ongoing expensive
24 maintenance”; and

25 WHEREAS, in the same report, the Task Force recommended “that the State move forward with construction as
26 rapidly as possible”; and

27 WHEREAS, no new construction has occurred at DPC since work on the redesign of the Holloway Campus
28 stopped in 2007; and

29 WHEREAS, a growing body of scientific evidence suggests that the design of mental health care facilities plays a
30 significant role in staff safety and satisfaction, client treatment outcomes, and cost reduction; and

31 WHEREAS, DHSS has federal funding that can be used to study the feasibility of replacing the current DPC
32 facilities and to gather input regarding DPC’s current and future needs.

33 NOW, THEREFORE:

34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
35 Representatives concurring therein, that the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (“DSAMH”) is requested to
36 assess the feasibility of replacing the Delaware Psychiatric Center’s (“DPC”) facilities, including gathering input regarding
37 DPC’s current and future needs.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than December 31, 2023, DSAMH should submit a report detailing
39 the findings from the feasibility assessment of replacing DPC, including its current and future needs, to all the following:
40 the Governor, all members of the General Assembly, the Controller General, and the Director of the Office of Management
41 and Budget, with copies to the Director and the Librarian of the Division of Research of Legislative Council, and the
42 Delaware Public Archives.

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution requests that the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health assess the feasibility of replacing the Delaware Psychiatric Center’s (“DPC”) facilities, including gathering input regarding DPC’s current and future needs, and provide a report detailing the findings of this work by December 31, 2023.

Author: Senator Hansen