

State of South Dakota

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2019

576B0190

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. _____

Introduced by: _____

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, To provide for legislative task forces to study, report, and
2 develop and consider recommendations and proposed legislation regarding sustainable
3 improvements to the continuum of mental health services available in the state.

4 WHEREAS, mental health issues in the State of South Dakota constitute a public health
5 crisis; and

6 WHEREAS, communities, families, and individuals face a broad spectrum of mental health
7 challenges on a daily basis; and

8 WHEREAS, South Dakota is faced with a high rate of suicide; and

9 WHEREAS, productive, long-term solutions are needed to address mental health access; and

10 WHEREAS, regionally focused solutions are the pathway to provide mental health access
11 for all citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, separate task forces should be established to study, review, and identify each
13 of the following:

14 (1) Redefine acute mental health hospitalizations in the areas of short, intermediate, and
15 long-term placement, with emphasis on keeping individuals needing placement in
16 community whenever possible;



- 1 (2) Reduce the overall use of acute mental health hospitalizations by developing and
2 supporting existing alternatives where appropriate, create community-based short-
3 stay alternatives, and develop day treatment options;
- 4 (3) Leverage telehealth and telemedicine to the full appropriate extent, with focus on the
5 areas of acute assessment and crisis supports, along with mental health assessments
6 and counseling;
- 7 (4) Redefine Human Service Center nursing home admission criteria and build mental
8 health nursing home capacity for persons with organic brain damage; and
- 9 (5) Increase the capacity for transitional housing and residential services in communities
10 to keep individuals closer to home, and develop caregiver supports; and

11 WHEREAS, the task forces should consist of subgroups to study each recommended area,
12 as appointed by the Legislature, and task force subgroups should meet at least three times per
13 year; and

14 WHEREAS, the task forces should make recommendations in a report to the Legislature no
15 later than December 31, 2019, which should address changes necessary within state and county
16 programs and any other areas deemed necessary:

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Fourth Legislature
18 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the
19 Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council is hereby directed to establish task forces
20 on the status of mental health care in order to further the objectives described in this resolution.