



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

Washington Square Building, Suite 1025  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Phone: 517/373-6466

DMH TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH

**RECEIVED**  
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House Bill 4089  
Sponsor: Rep. Joe Young, Sr. Mich. State Law Library  
Committee: Mental Health

Complete to 3-13-89

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4089 AS INTRODUCED 2-7-89**

Currently, the Mental Health Code charges the Department of Mental Health with responsibility for endeavoring "to ensure that adequate and appropriate mental health services are available to all citizens throughout the state," in accordance with the state constitution (Article VIII, Section 8), "which declares that services for the care, treatment, or rehabilitation of those who are seriously mentally handicapped shall always be fostered and supported." In order to do this, the code says that the department "may function in the areas of mental illness, mental retardation, organic brain and other neurological impairment or disease, alcoholism, and substance abuse. Priority shall be given to the areas of mental illness and mental retardation. Within the area of mental illness priority shall be given to the more severe forms of such disability."

The bill would amend the code, adding "the prevention of mental disability, and the promotion of good mental health" to the list of areas in which the Department of Mental Health may function, and to the list of areas to which the department must give priority. In addition, the bill would substitute the phrase "developmental disabilities" for the current "mental retardation" in this section of the code, and would add "education" to the list of services to be fostered and supported (Article VIII of the constitution is titled "Education," and Section 8, "Services for Handicapped Persons.")

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House Bill 4089 (3-13-89)