



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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DUAL DIAGNOSIS EXAM

House Bill 4141

Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Young, Sr.

Committee: Mental Health

Complete to 4-30-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4141 AS INTRODUCED 2-7-91

The bill would amend the Mental Health Code to require that people hospitalized in a Department of Mental Health (DMH) facility undergo a comprehensive physical examination and screening for substance abuse (a process sometimes known as "dual diagnosis") if they so agreed.

The bill would require that whenever someone was admitted for 24 hours or more in a facility operated or licensed by the DMH, the department or facility would be required, with the patient's consent, to conduct a "comprehensive" physical examination that included screening for substance abuse. ("Substance abuse" would mean the term as defined in the Public Health Code, namely, "the taking of alcohol or other drugs at dosages that place an individual's social, economic, psychological, and physical welfare in potential hazard or to the extent that an individual loses the power of self-control as a result of the use of alcohol or drugs, or while habitually under the influence of alcohol or drugs, endangers public health, morals, safety, or welfare, or a combination thereof.") Individuals that would be examined under the bill would include someone admitted, voluntarily or involuntarily, for 24 hours or more; someone taken into protective custody under the Mental Health Code; and someone hospitalized pending a court hearing.

The screening could include tests to detect the presence of chemical substances in the patient's body, including (but not limited to) alcohol and other drugs. If the test results suggested that the patient had a substance abuse problem, the department (or licensed health care professional) would, with the patient's consent, send the test results to whomever was doing the patient's treatment and release planning so that the plan could include any need for substance abuse treatment. Representatives from a city, county, or regional coordinating agency for substance abuse would have to be included, with the patient's consent, on the planning team if the planner was a county program or before a county program placed a patient in a supervised community living arrangement (such as a foster home, group care home or nursing home). The Office of Substance Abuse Services would have to be consulted during the development of the methodology for the required substance abuse screening and testing.

MCL 330.1209a et al.