

Amendment: 27

Representatives HERBKERSMAN and SIMRILL propose the following amendment:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

New

117.mht (GP: Mental Health Transportation) (A) Funds appropriated to the Department of Mental Health for the Alternative Transportation Program shall exclusively be used to support the transportation of individuals pursuant to Article 5, Chapter 17, Title 44 of the 1976 Code and as defined herein. These funds may be carried forward and expended for the same purpose.

(B) As soon as practicable within the current fiscal year, the Director of the Department of Mental Health shall cooperate with the Division of Procurement Services of the State Fiscal Accountability Authority in the development and issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an Alternative Transportation Program that provides transportation services for nonviolent individuals requiring immediate hospitalization as described in Article 5, Chapter 17, Title 44 of the 1976 Code. The purpose of the RFP shall be to seek proposals from qualified private providers to provide timely, safe, and secure transportation for such individuals. Before finalizing the RFP, the Division of Procurement Services shall provide relevant stakeholders with an opportunity to provide recommendations on the scope and structure of the Alternative Transportation Program, subject to the following provisions:

(1) The program shall initially be made available within a pilot region to be identified by the authority in consultation with the Department of Mental Health. Subject to the authority's judgment, the RFP shall be structured so as to accommodate subsequent awards and/or contract amendments to serve other regions of the State, in which case, only one vendor shall be selected in each region, but a single vendor may be selected to provide services in multiple or all regions.

(2) In structuring the initial pilot, the authority shall endeavor to provide the availability of the Alternate Transportation Program in an optimal service area at an annualized cost that does not exceed the amount appropriated for this purpose.

Ways and Means Committee Amendment

(3) The RFP shall be conducted as provided for under the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code.

(4) Upon implementation, the Alternative Transportation Program must be available on a 24-hour basis every day of the year.

(5) Drivers must pass a criminal background check and complete relevant and appropriate training prior to furnishing services.

(6) Transportation vehicles must be secure but nondescript and drivers must be clothed in professional attire that does not resemble a law enforcement uniform.

(D) When transportation is provided through this Alternative Transportation Program, the written agreement described in Section 44-17-440(A) of the 1976 Code shall not be required.

(E) No later than January 15, 2022, the authority shall provide the Governor, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee with a report on the implementation of this program. The report shall include a projection of the annualized amount by which the cost of a statewide Alternative Transportation Program might, at full implementation, exceed the amount appropriated for the program in the current fiscal year.