



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Proposed Bill No. 6551

LCO No. 2533



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:

REP. KEITT, 134th Dist.

***AN ACT CONCERNING ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT FOR
PERSONS WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to (1) define "serious harm" to
- 2 include a substantial inability to meet basic needs and psychiatric
- 3 deterioration, (2) broaden the criteria for evaluating a person's need for
- 4 mental health intervention, (3) allow more health care professionals,
- 5 including, but not limited to, psychiatric advanced practice registered
- 6 nurses and clinical social workers, to participate in mental health
- 7 assessments, (4) establish a flexible approach to involuntary treatment
- 8 that emphasizes individual potential and employs the least restrictive
- 9 interventions, (5) require hospitals and psychiatric treatment facilities to
- 10 evaluate patients for potential assisted outpatient treatment before
- 11 discharge, (6) require notification of community mental health care
- 12 providers about patient admissions and discharges from hospitals or
- 13 psychiatric treatment facilities, and (7) require the Department of
- 14 Mental Health and Addiction Services to provide training to health care
- 15 providers relating to the provisions of subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive,

16 of this act.

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce recurrent hospitalizations of persons with severe mental illness, prevent premature deaths, enhance public safety and provide more compassionate and effective mental health care while maintaining a commitment to increasing community-based mental health services and respecting individual rights.