

Proposal for Legislation -- 2011

Re: Direct Commitment to Federal Mental Health Facility

Return to:

Sue O'Connell
Legislative Services Division
E-mail: soconnell@mt.gov
Phone: 444-3597 Fax: 444-3036

PROPOSER'S NAME/TITLE: Mary Dalton
ORGANIZATION: DPHHS
ADDRESS: Sanders Building
PHONE: 444-4084
FAX: 444-1970
E-MAIL: mdalton@mt.gov; llamson@mt.gov

- 1. What is the problem or issue?**
A number of admissions to Montana State Hospital are veterans who are eligible for treatment at VA facilities. Ft Harrison is currently building an inpatient facility which may be an appropriate facility for some of these MSH patients. Current law permits transfer of a committed patient to a federal facility, but does not clearly authorize direct commitment at the outset of the commitment case.
- 2. What do you want the legislation to do?**
Provide clear authority for a district court to enter an initial order of commitment to a federal facility.
- 3. If possible, please list the MCA (Montana Code Annotated) sections that would need to be amended.**
Move the language currently in 53-21-133(1), MCA, to 53-21-127(3), MCA.
- 4. If the proposed change requires additional funding, what funding sources do you propose?**
No fiscal impact anticipated.
- 5. Has similar legislation been requested in the past, been introduced in another state, or provided as a model act? If so, please provide a citation, reference, or point of contact.**
No