

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 465 (Eggman)

As Amended August 19, 2020

Majority vote

SUMMARY:

Provide that if mental health professionals participate in a program assisting law enforcement in serving the community, or respond to calls for service instead of law enforcement, that those mental health professionals are supervised by licensed mental health professionals.

The Senate Amendments

Delete the previous version of this bill and instead:

- 1) Provide that in any program or pilot program in which mental health professionals respond in collaboration with law enforcement personnel, or in place of law enforcement, to emergency calls related to a mental health crisis shall ensure that mental health professionals participating in the program are supervised by a licensed mental health professional.
- 2) Define a "licensed mental health professional" as any one of the following:
 - a) A licensed clinical social worker;
 - b) A licensed professional clinical counselor;
 - c) A licensed marriage and family therapist, and,
 - d) A licensed psychologist.

COMMENTS:

There has been general discussion in the Legislature and across the country that law enforcement officials are not the ideal first responders to scenes of a mental health crisis. This bill facilitates replacing and supplementing law enforcement officers with mental health workers by ensuring responders are properly supervised by licensed professionals.

According to the Author:

"It is common knowledge that 911 is the number you call in case of emergency. While you should get an ambulance for a medical emergency and a fire crew for a fire, it is less clear who responds to a mental health crisis – though it is often the police. Despite some good work related to Crisis Intervention Training, there has been a call to increase the response of mental health workers to these types of calls.

"In Eugene, Oregon, a program called Cahoots (Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Street) is a nonprofit that responds to non-criminal calls around homelessness, substance use, and mental health. They are tied directly into the 911 system and can respond to calls without police. It's reported that in 2017, Cahoots handled 17-percent of police calls. This additional help is seen as a benefit, not only to the community, but to the officers who now have more time and attention for other issues.

"The City of Oakland is pursuing their own version of this model for a pilot program in the fall of 2020 based on that simple principle of having mental health workers respond to mental health issues.

"Nonprofits in other cities, including Sacramento, are looking to act as an alternative to police in dealing with these calls. The current police approach in the City is to first send an officer out to assess the situation and then determine whether to seek a community support team.

"Cities and counties around the state are surely looking into how to better respond to mental health calls for assistance, and they will be looking to Cahoots in Eugene, the Co-Responder program in Colorado, the Rapid Integrated Group Healthcare Team in Dallas, and many more that are trying to dispatch mental health professionals to mental health crises.

"These programs are all recognizing that police officers are not trained to be mental health professionals. As they expand, and local governments experiment, it will be important that those responding are properly supervised by licensed clinicians."

Arguments in Support:

According to the *National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter*, "After several high profile deaths, including George Floyd, communities across the nation have been re-evaluating the role of police and if police are the best responders for calls relating to mental health. Many communities are considering the expansion of programs to utilize mental health workers as first responders in these situations or to implement new programs. Some programs send out a mental health responder with police officers and others send them out in place of law enforcement.

"One notable program in Eugene, Oregon is the Cahoots program which stands for Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Street. This very successful non profit responds to non-criminal calls relating to homelessness, substance use, and mental health. This program, which is tied to the 911 system, helps the community and in 2017, handled 17 percent of police calls which allows the police to focus on issues where their services are needed.

"By requiring supervision by a licensed clinician, this bill will ensure that mental health workers are appropriately responding to calls and giving the best service possible to the individual and to the community."

Arguments in Opposition:

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS:

Unknown

VOTES:

ASM JUDICIARY: 12-0-0

YES: Mark Stone, Gallagher, Chau, Chiu, Gonzalez, Holden, Kalra, Kiley, Maienschein, Obernolte, Petrie-Norris, Reyes

ASM HUMAN SERVICES: 8-0-0

YES: Reyes, Mathis, Berman, Choi, Friedman, Gipson, Maienschein, Mark Stone

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0-4

YES: Aguiar-Curry, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Bigelow, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Bonta, Brough, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Chau, Chiu, Choi, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Cunningham, Dahle, Daly, Diep, Eggman, Flora, Fong, Frazier, Friedman, Gabriel, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Gipson, Gloria, Gonzalez, Grayson, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Kamlager-Dove, Kiley, Lackey, Levine, Limón, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, O'Donnell, Obernolte, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago, Smith, Mark Stone, Ting, Voepel, Waldron, Weber, Wicks, Wood, Rendon

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Chen, Eduardo Garcia, Gray

SENATE FLOOR: 40-0-0

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Atkins, Bates, Beall, Borgeas, Bradford, Caballero, Chang, Dahle, Dodd, Durazo, Galgiani, Glazer, Lena Gonzalez, Grove, Hertzberg, Hill, Hueso, Hurtado, Jackson, Jones, Leyva, McGuire, Melendez, Mitchell, Monning, Moorlach, Morrell, Nielsen, Pan, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Skinner, Stern, Umberg, Wieckowski, Wiener, Wilk

UPDATED:

VERSION: August 19, 2020

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FN: 0003428