

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Mental Health and Developmental  
5 Disabilities Administrative Act is amended by adding Section  
6 18.6 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 1705/18.6 new)

8 Sec. 18.6. Community hospital inpatient psychiatric  
9 services program restoration.

10 (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds as follows:

11 (1) In 2002, the State of Illinois closed the Zeller  
12 Mental Health Center in Peoria and significantly reduced  
13 the capacities of the Elgin Mental Health Center and the  
14 Alton Mental Health Center, severely reducing the State's  
15 ability to provide inpatient psychiatric services at  
16 State-operated facilities.

17 (2) In order to meet the State's obligation to  
18 individuals who previously would have been treated in these  
19 State-operated facilities, the Department of Human  
20 Services' Division of Mental Health (DMH) established in  
21 2002 a program known as the Community Hospital Inpatient  
22 Psychiatric Services ("CHIPS") Program (DMH; Cost Center  
23 550), under which DMH contracted with and reimbursed

1 private community hospitals to provide acute inpatient  
2 psychiatric services to individuals suffering from mental  
3 illness.

4 (3) In 2009, in response to the State's budget crisis,  
5 DMH eliminated all funding for the CHIPS program and  
6 terminated all contracts with private community hospitals  
7 for these services. The elimination of this vital program  
8 threatens the health, safety, and welfare of Illinois  
9 residents who are poor, uninsured, suffering from serious  
10 mental illness, and require admission for inpatient  
11 psychiatric services.

12 (4) With the elimination of the CHIPS program, many  
13 Illinois residents with serious mental illness are forced  
14 to rely on hospital emergency rooms. This interferes with  
15 the orderly provision of emergency medical care to other  
16 patients and can delay appropriate care for the person  
17 suffering from mental illness. The elimination of CHIPS,  
18 which provides an acute care option for persons in crisis,  
19 also may increase homelessness and incarceration of  
20 mentally ill persons.

21 (b) CHIPS program restored. Beginning July 1, 2010, the  
22 Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health shall  
23 reinstate and fully operate the Community Hospital Inpatient  
24 Psychiatric Services ("CHIPS") Program in the same manner as it  
25 had been operated on May 1, 2009.

26 (c) Reimbursement. The Division of Mental Health shall

1 establish and pay adequate and timely reimbursement for private  
2 community hospitals, psychiatrists, and other mental health  
3 professionals who render care under the CHIPS program using the  
4 same reimbursement methodology that was in effect on May 1,  
5 2009.

6 (d) Regulations. The Division of Mental Health shall adopt  
7 such regulations as shall be necessary to implement this  
8 amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly.

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
10 becoming law.