



HR1041

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Mental illness is a critical underlying concept in  
3 various areas of our law affecting mitigation of criminal  
4 responsibility and fundamental rights to property, individual  
5 liberty, and personal privacy; and

6           WHEREAS, For at least 2 generations, mental illness has  
7 been presumed to be brain disease which is best confronted as a  
8 treatable medical problem; and

9           WHEREAS, Vast amounts of State resources and tax monies,  
10 not to mention the creative energies and work of our citizens  
11 and civil servants, are continuously expended in accordance  
12 with Illinois laws and regulations dependent upon derived  
13 psychiatric definitions, formulations, and diagnostic criteria  
14 for mental disorders, in particular upon those definitions,  
15 formulations, and criteria which are found in the American  
16 Psychiatric Association's nearly 20-year-old Diagnostic and  
17 Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition  
18 (DSM-IV); and

19           WHEREAS, Some experts in the field of mental health are  
20 currently in major and substantial disagreement about methods  
21 and standards of psychiatric diagnosis; and

1           WHEREAS, Despite explicit admonitions in DSM-IV against  
2 the use of psychiatric diagnosis for such legal purposes as  
3 establishing competence, criminal responsibility or  
4 disability, Illinois courts and agencies have nonetheless  
5 habitually relied upon the formulations and criteria in the DSM  
6 for the precise expertise which the text itself disclaims; and

7           WHEREAS, A new edition of the American Psychiatric  
8 Association's manual, DSM-5, is scheduled for publication in  
9 May of 2013, but proposed changes for this upcoming DSM are  
10 provoking intense criticism from a diverse range of mental  
11 health experts; therefore, be it

12           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
14 the Task Force on Mental Health Diagnosis within Illinois Law  
15 be created to:

16           (1) thoroughly survey the Illinois Compiled Statutes and  
17 Administrative Code to identify all instances where our  
18 laws and government functions depend upon purported  
19 understanding of mental illness or disorder, mental  
20 capacity, mental health, behavior or psychology, which may  
21 have been recently discredited or found to be incorrect or  
22 seriously called into question;

23           (2) forward initial recommendations of urgent legislative  
24 actions which may be needed to avoid gross injustice or

1 waste of public resources to the General Assembly as soon  
2 as possible; and

3 (3) produce a final report summarizing the task force's  
4 findings and detailing recommended statutory or  
5 constitutional strategies to recognize best practices and  
6 highlight any areas of major disagreement within the  
7 profession; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the task force shall consist of the  
9 following members: 5 task force members appointed by the  
10 Speaker of the House, 2 of whom are State representatives (one  
11 who will serve as co-chairperson), and 3 of whom are  
12 professionals in the mental health field; 5 task force members  
13 appointed by the minority leader of the House, 2 of whom are  
14 State representatives (one who will serve as co-chairperson),  
15 and 3 of whom are professionals in the mental health field; one  
16 task force member appointed by the Governor under the Division  
17 of Mental Health under the Department of Human Services; and  
18 one task force member appointed by the Attorney General as a  
19 representative of her office and trained in a related field;  
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the task force be appointed and hold its  
22 first meeting by March 1, 2013; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That in appointing members of the task force, the

1 Speaker and minority leader shall consider that professional  
2 experience in diverse mental health-related fields may be a  
3 positive qualification; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the task force shall take voluntary  
5 assistance and testimony from individuals and professional  
6 organizations and institutions; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the members of the task force shall serve  
8 without compensation; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the task force shall submit its final report  
10 to the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Attorney General  
11 no later than December 31, 2013.