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SENATE BILL NO. 750

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health
on February 3, 2022)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Dunnavant)

A *BILL to require the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to develop and implement a plan to transfer responsibility for the oversight and operation of the Commonwealth's state hospitals from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to another governmental entity.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. *That the Secretary of Health and Human Resources shall develop and implement a plan to transfer responsibility for the oversight and operation of the Commonwealth's state hospitals from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to another governmental entity and to grant such governmental entity the authority to administer the Commonwealth's state hospitals effectively and efficiently. Such plan shall describe the purposes, structure, organization, governance, management, oversight, powers, and duties of the governmental entity and the mechanisms by which such governmental entity shall be funded.*

§ 2. *The plan described in § 1 shall provide for administration of the Commonwealth's state hospitals in a manner that is effective, efficient, equitable, and accountable and that ensures access to necessary acute inpatient mental health services for all individuals in need of such services. The plan shall take into account the fact that the Commonwealth's state hospitals exist within an established behavioral health system and a framework of public and private inpatient and outpatient mental health services and providers and shall ensure that the Commonwealth's state hospitals continue to fill their current role as providers of publicly funded acute inpatient care mental health services while maintaining necessary connections to and continuing to work cooperatively with other public and private mental health service providers to ensure access to the full continuum of mental health services in the Commonwealth. The plan shall also provide flexibility to allow for development of new approaches to the delivery of publicly funded acute inpatient mental health services and development of new approaches to the delivery of mental health services to facilitate continued improvement of the Commonwealth's mental health service system.*