

SB 973

Relating to behavioral health

SB 973 establishes the Improving People’s Access to Community-based Treatment, Supports and Services program within the Criminal Justice Commission. The grant program will provide funding to counties, tribal nations, and regional consortiums to strengthen local and regional supports and services for people with serious mental illnesses and substance addictions with the goal of reducing arrests, jail bookings, emergency department visits, and state hospital admissions.

The bill provides \$10 million for grants, which includes \$300,000 for research and analysis of the grant program’s outcomes. The Grant Review Committee established by the bill will also explore policy options for consideration by the Legislature in 2020.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends SB 973 be amended by the -A6 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.