

2022 -- H 8004

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LC005451  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND  
HOSPITALS -- DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Introduced By: Representatives Alzate, Felix, Casimiro, Giraldo, Amore, and Henries

Date Introduced: March 18, 2022

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 40.1-21 of the General Laws entitled "Division of Developmental  
2 Disabilities" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **40.1-21-19. Social caseworker caseload.**

4 (a) There shall be a workload study conducted by the directors of the department of  
5 behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals ("BHDDH"), the department of  
6 children, youth and families ("DCYF"), and the department of human services ("DHS") in order to  
7 determine the optimal caseload limits for social caseworkers II in the division of developmental  
8 disabilities unit of BHDDH.

9 (b) The study shall be completed within one year and reported back to the general assembly  
10 by September 1, 2023. The study shall include:

11 (1) A scientific time measurement of what duties the social caseworkers II actually  
12 perform;

13 (2) Determining a set of minimum essential workload standards based on federal, state, and  
14 local mandates;

15 (3) Developing a set of optional, best practices standards;

16 (4) Calculating staffing needs to fulfill these essential and best practice standards;

17 (5) Projecting needs based on caseload growth and plans to fulfill unmet service needs; and

18 (6) Ensuring caseloads achieve positive outcomes for the children and families served, as

1 [well as considering worker turnover.](#)

2 [\(c\) Until such time as the study is completed, the caseload limit for social caseworkers II](#)  
3 [shall be one hundred fifty \(150\) clients per social caseworker II.](#)

4 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND  
HOSPITALS -- DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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1           This act would create a workload study for social caseworkers II in the division of  
2 developmental disabilities within the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental  
3 disabilities and hospitals (BHDDH). The study would be completed within one year and the results  
4 reported to the general assembly. Until such time as the study is completed, the caseload limit  
5 would be one hundred fifty (150) clients per social caseworker II.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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