

1 H.45

2 Introduced by Representatives Anthony of Barre City and Walz of Barre City

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; mental health; law enforcement; mental health provider

6 collaboration

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a
8 grant program to fund the provision of services by mental health providers in
9 collaboration with municipal police departments.

10 An act relating to the provision of grants for mental health providers
11 working in collaboration with municipal police departments

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 8915 is added to read:

14 § 8915. GRANT PROGRAM; MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER AND

15 MUNICIPAL POLICING COLLABORATIONS

16 (a) The Department of Mental Health shall administer a grant program for
17 the purpose of funding services by a mental health provider working in
18 collaboration with municipal police departments. Grants shall fund half of the
19 costs associated with services provided by a mental health provider who is
20 employed by an agency designated pursuant to section 8907 of this title.

1 Grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be at the discretion of the
2 Commissioner.

3 (b) A designated agency, in collaboration with one or more municipal
4 police departments from within a designated agency's service region, may
5 submit a grant application to the Department each year during the period
6 specified by the Department in rule. Applications to fund multiple mental
7 health provider positions within a municipality shall be considered to the
8 extent that the proposal reflects the municipality's population. Successful
9 grant applicants shall:

10 (1) describe the proposed collaboration between the designated agency
11 and the collaborating municipal police department, including the mental health
12 provider's anticipated duties, work hours, and any specialized training
13 necessary;

14 (2) document necessary authorization for the mental health provider to
15 accompany police officers responding to emergencies involving individuals in
16 mental health crisis, including any necessary insurance coverage for the mental
17 health provider;

18 (3) demonstrate that the collaborating municipality has approved
19 appropriating 50 percent of the total cost associated with the mental health
20 provider's services from local budgets; and

1 (4) document that the collaborating municipal police department
2 operates on a full-time basis and that the municipality has a population of at
3 least 2,500 residents.

4 (c) Awards granted by the Commissioner under this section shall be
5 provided directly to the applying agency.

6 (d) Pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, the Commissioner shall adopt rules
7 necessary to administer the grant program established in this section. Rules
8 shall address:

9 (1) timelines for application and reapplication;

10 (2) additional application criteria; and

11 (3) procedures for review of grant expenditures and program evaluation.

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.