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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
ACT MEMO**

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<b>2015 Wisconsin Act 153</b> [2015 Senate Bill 293]	<b>Mental Health Pilot Projects and Information on Availability of Inpatient Psychiatric Beds</b>
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2015 Wisconsin Act 153 (the Act) requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to develop certain mental health pilot projects and take steps to increase access to information on availability of inpatient psychiatric beds.

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE COORDINATION PILOT PROJECTS**

The Act directs DHS to create and award at least two pilot projects to test alternative, coordinated care delivery and payment models designed to reduce costs of Medical Assistance (MA) recipients who have significant or chronic mental illness.

**PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATION REIMBURSEMENT PILOT PROJECT**

The Act directs DHS to create and award a pilot project to test new MA payment models designed to encourage psychiatric consultations by psychiatrists. Specifically, the project should encourage psychiatric consultations with health care providers treating primary care issues, and psychiatric consultations with selected specialty health care providers, to help those providers manage and treat adults with mild to moderate mental illness and physical health needs.

**INFORMATION ON AVAILABILITY OF INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC BEDS**

Finally, the Act requires DHS to award a grant to an entity that is already under contract to collect, analyze, and disseminate health care information of hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers. The entity must agree to develop an Internet site and system to enable inpatient psychiatric units or hospitals to enter certain information on availability of inpatient psychiatric beds, and to enable any hospital emergency department in the state to view the information reported to the system.

*Effective date:* February 28, 2016

*Prepared by:* Brian Larson, Staff Attorney

May 3, 2016

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.