

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004**

---

**COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTINA HENDERSON, CHAIRPERSON  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC Hearing**

**ON**

**B25-0692 - Enhancing Mental Health Crisis Support and Hospitalization Amendment Act of 2024**

**ON**

**Thursday, July 11, 2024, 9:30 A.M.**  
Hybrid in Room 500 and Virtual via Zoom  
To Watch Live:

<https://dccouncil.gov/council-videos/>  
<https://www.christinahendersondc.com/live>  
<https://www.youtube.com/@cmchenderson>

Councilmember Christina Henderson, Chair of the Committee on Health, announces a public hearing on B25-0692 - Enhancing Mental Health Crisis Support and Hospitalization Amendment Act of 2024. The hearing will be held on **Thursday, July 11, 2024, 9:30 A.M.**, hybrid in Room 500 of the John A. Wilson Building, and Virtual via Zoom.

The stated purpose of B25-0692 is to broaden the pool of qualified healthcare professionals authorized to initiate involuntary commitment processes, incorporating Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioners with expertise in mental health assessments. It extends the detention time for emergency observation. It extends timeframes for initiation of probable cause hearings and prioritizes virtual hearings. It clarifies the right to voluntarily agree to remain in inpatient status until an appropriate discharge plan is implemented. It would allow doctors to make involuntary admissions, provided their financial arrangements comply with federal law. It allows the court, when appropriate to order for treatment for up to 30 days but not less than 15 days. It would also require the Department of Behavioral Health to develop online training modules for both healthcare professionals and laypersons.

Involuntary hospitalization, also known as involuntary commitment or civil commitment, is a legal procedure that compels a person to be admitted to a hospital or psychiatric facility for mental health evaluation and treatment without their agreement, on a temporary basis. This procedure is generally considered when there's a significant concern that an individual might be a danger to themselves or others due to a serious mental health issue. It serves as a crucial legal tool

for emergency intervention, allowing for the swift evaluation and hospitalization of those urgently requiring mental health services. The policies surrounding involuntary hospitalization are designed with legal protections to ensure the rights of the individuals are respected, while also benefiting the community by proactively addressing mental health issues that could escalate into crises or result in harm if not properly managed.

Witnesses may appear either in-person or virtually using the Zoom platform. Unless otherwise stated in pre-hearing instructions, witnesses will have 5 minutes to speak if they are representing an organization, and 3 minutes if they are speaking for themselves. The public should sign up at <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings> by 5pm on Tuesday, July 9, 2024. **Witnesses who anticipate needing spoken language interpretation, or require sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee office of the need as soon as possible but no later than five business days before the proceeding.** We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests, although alternatives may be offered. Requests received in less than five business days may not be fulfilled. If you have additional questions, please email Ashley Strange, Legislative Assistant at [astrange@dccouncil.gov](mailto:astrange@dccouncil.gov).

Testimony should be submitted through the Council's Hearing Management System <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/hearings> in advance of the roundtable. Testimony will be publicly accessible upon Committee review. If you are unable to testify at the hearing, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record. Statements for the record should be submitted through the Hearing Management System at the link above. The record will close at 5:00pm on Thursday, July 25, 2024.