

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2025-010

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3 REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND  
4 LABOR STUDY THE FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM.

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6 WHEREAS, forensic mental health is a specialized area that examines the  
7 intersection of mental health and the legal system, encompassing criminal,  
8 civil, and regulatory aspects, and involves professionals like psychiatrists,  
9 psychologists, and social workers who are trained in both mental health and  
10 legal procedures; and

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12 WHEREAS, the strengths and weaknesses of the forensic mental health  
13 system in this state have not been studied to determine the best practices  
14 and improvements that could be made through legislation,

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16 NOW THEREFORE,

17 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF  
18 THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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20 THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study the  
21 forensic mental health system, including without limitation:

22 (1) Access to and the availability of forensic mental healthcare  
23 in this state;

24 (2) Existing forensic mental healthcare facilities in this  
25 state;

26 (3) Existing numbers of licensed practitioners and the  
27 licensures needed to practice in the forensic mental health system;

28 (4) The adequacy of the mental health labor pool, education,  
29 licensure, and training programs in this state;

30 (5) The best practices and uniform procedures across  
31 stakeholders to improve efficiencies in the forensic mental health system;  
32 and

33 (6) Steps needed to create a full crisis continuum of care for  
34 mental health and substance abuse issues.

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36 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT the following entities provide assistance

1 and input concerning forensic mental health:

- 2 (1) The Department of Human Services;
- 3 (2) Arkansas Judicial Council, Inc.;
- 4 (3) The Arkansas Psychology Board;
- 5 (4) The Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling;
- 6 (5) The Arkansas State Medical Board;
- 7 (6) Office of the Prosecutor Coordinator;
- 8 (7) The Arkansas Public Defender Commission; and
- 9 (8) The Arkansas Sheriffs' Association.

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Respectfully submitted,

Representative Lee Johnson  
District 47

Prepared by: JMB/JMB

