



# H.B. 155

## CIVIL COMMITMENT AMENDMENTS

Currently, if someone has a mental illness and thus poses a substantial danger to themselves or others, they can either be a.) committed, or b.) given assisted outpatient treatment (AOT)

**What is this bill and what does it do?**

### Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)

Court ordered treatment outside of a hospital. Has been in the statute for 4 years but is rarely used.

### Civil Commitment

Mental Health authority may require hospitalization.

## BENEFITS:

- The bill will improve the lives of those who have a mental illness.
- Intended to increase the utilization of AOT thus reducing stigma faced by patients, protect their civil liberties and increase long term compliance with mental health treatment. Reduce homelessness. Reduce crime.
- The bill also changes the requirements to keep someone in civil commitment. That criteria was dropped from the statute two years ago and has caused problems in court hearings. Some long term hospital patients do not currently pose a danger to themselves or others but will quickly become so if released.
- Allows those in AOT to be moved to commitment under limited circumstances.
- Allows patients to skip court hearing if show good cause or after informed waiver.



# AOT and Commitment

Unchanged Portion of Statute

## AOT

Criteria:

1. Mentally ill
2. Least restrictive
3. Can't make rational decision about treatment, or,
4. Needs AOT to prevent relapse resulting in danger to self or others

62 A-15-630.5 (14)  
lines 237-248

## Commitment

Criteria:

1. " "
2. " "
3. " "
4. Poses a substantial danger to self and others

62A-15-631(16)  
lines 421-434

Initial Criteria

Changed Portion of Statute

During AOT patient can be moved to civil commitment if criteria 1 & 2 are met plus:

conduct, statements or treatment compliance during past 6 months shows absent involuntary commitment will likely pose substantial danger to self and others.

Max 12 months

62A-15-632(2)  
lines 487-498

After 6 months, civil commitment can be renewed if criteria 1 & 2 are still met plus:

absent involuntary commitment will likely pose substantial danger to self and others.

Max 6 months.

62A-15-632(1)  
lines 477-486

Review Criteria