

# HOUSE BILL 172: REPORT TO LEGISLATURE

## HB 172 Overview

House Bill 172 Mental Health Facilities and Medications was signed into law on July 18, 2022. Prior to this, only hospitals and jails could hold individuals under a notice of emergency detention and only certain hospitals could provide evaluation, stabilization, and treatment to civilly committed individuals. Now people can receive behavioral health crisis services in less restrictive settings, no matter their commitment status.

Over time, people should have more opportunities to receive community-based stabilization and stay out of hospitals and correctional facilities.



House Bill 172 also provides an opportunity to address concerns regarding psychiatric patient rights. Section 36 of the bill directs the Trust, the Department of Health and the Department of Family and Community services to submit a report to the legislature and to the public. The report will assess current state, federal and accrediting body requirements for psychiatric patient rights and recommend changes to state requirements to improve patient rights. The report will also assess and recommend changes to processes for collecting data related to grievances, reports of harm, use of restraints and other traumatic events experienced by patients.

## HB 172 Report

### Assessment

Current state, federal and accrediting body requirements for psychiatric patient rights.

Data collection and reporting of patient grievances and appeals, patient reports of harm and restraint and resolution of patient grievances and reports.

### Recommendations

Changes to state statutes, regulations, or other requirements to improve patient outcomes & enhance patient rights.

Changes to current processes for data collection and reporting of patient grievances and appeals, patient reports of harm and restraint and resolution of patient grievances and reports.

The Trust has contracted with Agnew::Beck Consulting to perform site visits to specific facilities and conduct interviews and focus groups to assess current practices and identify potential recommendations. Interviews and focus groups will include providers, advocates and individuals and families with lived experience. An Advisory Team will work closely with the project team to develop report recommendations. The Advisory Team consists of stakeholders around the state, with representatives including:

- People with lived experience
- Advocates
- Disability Law Center of Alaska
- Psychiatric service providers
- State of Alaska Ombudsmen
- Alaska Mental Health Board
- Department of Health
- Department of Family and Community Services
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

If you have any questions about HB 172, please visit [AlaskaMentalHealthTrust.org](https://AlaskaMentalHealthTrust.org) or [Health.Alaska.gov](https://Health.Alaska.gov) for more information.

## Outcomes

The report will provide the Alaska Legislature with the information needed to improve psychiatric patient rights in Alaska. See below for an outline of report development and public input opportunities.

