

1 HB290
2 205516-2
3 By Representative Jones (M) (N & P)
4 RFD: Local Legislation
5 First Read: 02-FEB-21

1
2 ENROLLED, An Act,

3 Relating to Covington County; to authorize a law
4 enforcement officer from a designated law enforcement agency
5 to take an individual whom the officer believes has a mental
6 illness into protective custody under certain conditions; to
7 provide for the transportation of the individual to a hospital
8 or other facility for evaluation and treatment; and to provide
9 protection from civil liability to law enforcement officers
10 who, in good faith, place individuals with mental illness into
11 protective custody.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

13 Section 1. This act shall only apply in Covington
14 County.

15 Section 2. (a) For the purposes of this section, the
16 following terms have the following meanings:

17 (1) DESIGNATED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. A law
18 enforcement agency within Covington County that is authorized
19 by the sheriff to exercise the authority described in this
20 act.

21 (2) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. Any state, county, or
22 municipal officer certified by the Alabama Peace Officers'
23 Standards and Training Commission.

24 (b) (1) Concurrently with Article 1 of Chapter 52 of
25 Title 22, Code of Alabama 1975, a law enforcement officer from

1 a designated law enforcement agency may take an individual
2 into protective custody when the officer has reasonable cause
3 to believe that the individual is mentally ill and is an
4 immediate danger to himself or herself or others.

5 (2)a. Upon placement of an individual under
6 protective custody pursuant to subdivision (1), the law
7 enforcement officer shall transport the individual to a
8 hospital providing care and treatment to those with mental
9 illnesses or other designated treatment facility for an
10 evaluation and treatment.

11 b. If the individual does not consent to the
12 transport, the officer may use reasonable force necessary to
13 carry out the transport.

14 c. The individual shall be released from the
15 hospital or designated treatment facility within 72 hours,
16 exclusive of Saturday, Sunday, or any legal holiday, unless a
17 judge of probate orders further inpatient or outpatient
18 treatment for the individual as provided in Article 1 of
19 Chapter 52 of Title 22, Code of Alabama 1975.

20 d. Upon a determination by an attending physician,
21 nurse practitioner, or physician assistant at a hospital
22 licensed in this state that an individual transported to the
23 hospital pursuant to this section is not mentally ill or a
24 danger to self or others, the hospital shall promptly
25 communicate this information to the appropriate law

1 enforcement officer. The law enforcement officer shall
2 coordinate the immediate release of the individual from the
3 hospital and shall release the individual from protective
4 custody unless the law enforcement officer has some legal
5 cause for detaining the individual other than the individual's
6 mental condition. After the individual is released, and upon
7 request of the individual, the law enforcement officer shall
8 transport the individual to his or her residence or other
9 place of abode if it is within the county.

10 (c) Protective custody by a law enforcement officer
11 under this section shall not be considered an arrest for any
12 purpose, and no entry or other record may be made to indicate
13 that an individual subject to temporary protective custody by
14 a law enforcement officer under this section has been detained
15 or charged with any crime.

16 (d) (1) It is the policy of this state to encourage a
17 law enforcement officer, hospital, physician, medical
18 provider, or other designated treatment facility to act in the
19 best interests of the state by detaining individuals who are
20 mentally ill and a danger to themselves or others for
21 evaluation and treatment. The state finds that these actions
22 are necessary to protect the individuals and the public. These
23 entities and individuals are acting in the name of the state
24 and are acting as state agents, when acting pursuant to this
25 act, in making determinations, detaining, releasing,

1 admitting, discharging, or otherwise taking action under this
2 act. When acting pursuant to this act, a law enforcement
3 officer, hospital, physician, medical provider, or other
4 designated treatment facility shall be afforded immunity under
5 Section 36-1-12, Code of Alabama 1975, as any other state
6 employee or agent of the state.

7 (2) Nothing in this act shall modify, amend, repeal,
8 or supersede any provision of Section 6-5-333, Code of Alabama
9 1975, the Alabama Medical Liability Act of 1987, commencing
10 with Section 6-5-540, Code of Alabama 1975, or the Alabama
11 Medical Liability Act of 1996, commencing with Section
12 6-5-548, Code of Alabama 1975, or any amendment to any of
13 these laws or any judicial interpretation of these laws.

14 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
15 first day of the third month following its passage and
16 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

