

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. House Bill 944

PRINTER NO. 1865

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 17, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative E. Nelson

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 944 amends the Administrative Code to provide for duties of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) with respect to individuals who leave an inpatient treatment facility against medical advice.

The bill amends the Administrative Code to direct DDAP to require inpatient treatment facilities to notify an emergency contact designated by a resident if the resident leaves the inpatient treatment facility. Notification of the emergency contact will only be given if the individual has not revoked consent to discuss his/her treatment with the emergency contact. Notification is required to be made as soon as possible, and not to exceed 12 hours.

House Bill 944 requires inpatient treatment facilities to develop appropriate policies and procedures, which shall include advising residents of such notification. The bill provides an exemption if the recovery house has knowledge of or is aware of known allegations of domestic abuse of the resident by the emergency contact.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 944 will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. Facility owners may incur additional administrative time and costs from the required notifications to the emergency contacts; however, this should be able to be accommodated with current staffing at the facilities.