

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: 2021-822

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Salem

Date of Introduction: November 9, 2021

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS. F

Date of Analysis: November 9, 2021

Type of Action: Appropriation

Bill Summary: This bill is an appropriation of \$400,000 from the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund to contractual services within the Mental Health Offender Program (MHOP) Trust Fund.

Background Information: The purpose of this legislation is to provide funding to alleviate the traditional criminal justice system from incarcerating misdemeanor offenders who exhibit mental illness by providing services directly related to behavioral health. MHOP is a jail diversion program for misdemeanor offenders with mental health issues, intended to break the cycle of repeated misdemeanor arrests and provide them the wrap-around support they need to successfully treat their illness and reintegrate back into the community. Wrap around services include medical, dental, behavioral health, substance abuse, housing and intensive case management that connects them to stable income through either job counseling and training or SSI, SSDI, Medicare/Medicaid and other community services. MHOP is a partnership between COJ, JSO, SAO, Public Defender, Duval Courts, and the Sulzbacher Center.

Policy Impact Area: Mental Health Offender Program

Fiscal Impact: \$400,000 from the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund

Analyst: Hampsey