

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 29, 2009

TO: Honorable Jane Nelson, Chair, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB1574 by Thompson (Relating to services for persons with autism and other pervasive developmental disorders and their families.), **As Engrossed**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to establish a statewide Autism Spectrum Disorder Resource Center. The center shall collect and distribute information and research regarding autism, conduct training and developmental activities for persons who may interact with individuals with autism, coordinate with local entities that provide services to individuals with autism, and provide support to families affected by autism. It is assumed that that the cost to implement the program can be absorbed within existing resources.

The bill would require HHSC to conduct a study to determine the cost and benefits of initiating an adult autism pilot program. The study is to determine costs and benefits to encourage sustainable employment; promote self-determination and independence; and coordinate services and behavioral supports across all areas of need. The study must address barriers that may prevent adults with autism from living in the local community, including housing, behavioral services, social and communication services, transportation issues, and health and medical care. The study must also identify the existence and cause of service gaps in Texas and develop recommendations and determine costs associated with eliminating service gaps.

The bill would require HHSC to submit a report no later than September 1, 2010 to the Legislature on the study. The report must address recommendations for the structure of the pilot program; the number of persons who may benefit; the potential cost and savings of the pilot program; the method of determining which person would be eligible for the pilot; and which Medicaid waiver programs are appropriate for the program and whether a new Medicaid waiver may be required.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2009.

It is estimated that any cost associated with implementing the bill can be absorbed within existing resources.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 529 Health and Human Services Commission

LBB Staff: JOB, CL, BM, MB