

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 13, 2009

TO: Honorable Lois W. Kolkhorst, Chair, House Committee on Public Health

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

IN RE: SB188 by Deuell (Relating to disease control outreach programs to reduce the risk of certain communicable diseases.), **Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would add Subchapter J to Chapter 81, Health and Safety Code, to authorize local health authorities or organizations that contract with a county, municipality, hospital district, or other local governmental entity charged with protecting public health to establish a disease control outreach program. The subchapter would only apply to counties with a population of 300,000 or more. The requirements for the program are included in the bill. A local health authority or organization would be allowed to charge a program participant a fee for each hypodermic needle or syringe used in the program not to exceed 150 percent of the actual cost of the needle or syringe.

A local health authority or organization that operates a disease control outreach program established under the provisions of the bill would be required to annually submit certain information about the effectiveness of the program to the Department of State Health Services.

The bill would establish exceptions to offenses related to possession or delivery of drug paraphernalia as the manufacture, possession, and distribution of such items apply to the disease control program.

Any administrative costs to the state regarding information submitted to the Department of State Health Services could be absorbed within existing resources.

Local Government Impact

Costs to a local health authority or organization would vary and would be partially offset by fees charged. It is assumed that an authority or organization would establish a program only if sufficient resources existed within the authority's or organization's budget.

Based on the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 12 counties with a population of 300,000 or more. Examples of possible costs were provided by two of the applicable entities. Both identified expenses to include new staff, capital outlay, associated supplies, and operational costs of approximately \$302,600 the first year in Houston, and \$102,193 in fiscal year 2010 in San Antonio.

No significant fiscal impact to affected units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 537 State Health Services, Department of

LBB Staff: JOB, CL, BM, MB, DB