

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**May 17, 2019**

**TO:** Honorable Dennis Bonnen, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

**FROM:** John McGeady, Assistant Director    Sarah Keyton, Assistant Director  
Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB19** by Price (Relating to mental health and substance use resources for certain school districts.), **As Passed 2nd House**

**Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds** for HB19, As Passed 2nd House: a negative impact of (\$4,600,000) through the biennium ending August 31, 2021.

Local mental health authorities would be required to implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the authorities may, but would not be required to, implement a provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that purpose.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

The bill requires the provision of 20 non-physician mental health professionals, one per education service center (ESC) region, by local mental health authorities (LMHA). The non-physician mental health professional will serve as a resource in the following areas: awareness/understanding of mental health and co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders; implementing initiatives related to mental health or substance use under state law/agency rule; making aware of the list of best practice programs developed under Section 161.325, Health and Safety Code; other treatment programs available; providing Mental Health First Aid training and training on prevention and intervention programs helping students cope with pressures to use alcohol, cigarettes, illegal drugs or misuse prescription drugs; providing annual training on the effects of grief and trauma and providing support to children with intellectual or developmental disabilities who suffer from grief or trauma. These professionals may not treat or provide counseling to students or provide specific advice to a district regarding a student.

The bill requires HHSC to annually compile reports from LMHAs and prepare a report to the legislature regarding program outcomes.

**General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</b>
2020	(\$2,300,000)

2021	(\$2,300,000)
2022	(\$2,300,000)
2023	(\$2,300,000)
2024	(\$2,300,000)

**All Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund 1</b>
2020	(\$2,300,000)
2021	(\$2,300,000)
2022	(\$2,300,000)
2023	(\$2,300,000)
2024	(\$2,300,000)

**Fiscal Analysis**

The bill requires the provision of 20 non-physician mental health professionals, one per education service center (ESC) region, by local mental health authorities (LMHA). This analysis assumes that the cost of these additional employees would be appropriated to HHSC and then distributed to the local entities.

**Methodology**

This analysis assumes that LMHAs would hire one additional non-physician mental health professional for each of the 20 Education Service Centers. The Texas Council of Community Centers estimates an annual average salary, benefits and expenses of approximately \$115,600 per ESC. This analysis assumes that the cost of these additional employees would be appropriated to HHSC and then distributed to the local entities. The total cost estimate is \$2.3 million per fiscal year (\$115,600 \* 20). These FTEs are not reflected in the summary tables above because they would be employed by local, rather than state entities.

**Technology**

No significant technology requirements are anticipated.

**Local Government Impact**

Additional costs could result from unappropriated expenses for employees hired by LHMA and program costs, including: additional tracking, coordinating, data collection and annual program reporting.

**Source Agencies:** 529 Health and Human Services Commission, 701 Texas Education Agency

**LBB Staff:** WP, SD, AKi, THo, AM, SB, SL