

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 14, 2019

TO: Honorable Lois W. Kolkhorst, Chair, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

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.), **Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB19, Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted: 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.

This 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.

This 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:

Fiscal Year	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds
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:

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

Fiscal Analysis

This 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, AKi, THo, AM, SB, SL