

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 4, 2019

TO: Honorable James B. Frank, Chair, House Committee on Human Services

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

IN RE: HB320 by King, Ken (Relating to the drug testing of certain persons seeking benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.), **As Introduced**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would require certain persons seeking financial assistance benefits to submit to a controlled substance screening assessment and/or a drug test. The bill would make certain persons ineligible for financial assistance benefits.

The bill would require HHSC to use the most efficient and cost-effective screening assessment that HHSC, in conjunction with the Department of State Health Services, can develop; to pay for the screening assessment and drug test with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant federal funds; and to report certain information to the Department of Family and Protective Services for use in an investigation.

It is assumed that cost savings generated due to individuals being excluded from financial assistance benefits through drug screening and tests would partially offset other costs related to implementing the provisions of the bill, and that any remaining costs could be absorbed using existing resources. The ability to use TANF federal funds to implement the provisions of the bill would be subject to availability of unappropriated federal funds. Costs associated with the cash assistance program for two-parent families could not be paid with TANF federal funds as required by the bill.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 529 Health and Human Services Commission, 530 Family and Protective Services, Department of, 537 State Health Services, Department of

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