

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 1, 2019

TO: Honorable Senfronia Thompson, Chair, House Committee on Public Health

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

IN RE: HB1477 by Price (Relating to the use of grants under the emergency medical services assistance program and the distribution of certain revenue received by the comptroller.),
Committee Report 1st House, Substituted

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB1477, Committee Report 1st House, Substituted: a negative impact of (\$15,032,000) through the biennium ending August 31, 2021.

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

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds
2020	(\$7,516,000)
2021	(\$7,516,000)
2022	(\$7,516,000)
2023	(\$7,516,000)
2024	(\$7,516,000)

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Revenue Gain/(Loss) from <i>General Revenue Fund</i> 1	Probable Revenue Gain/(Loss) from <i>New General Revenue Dedicated - Emergency Medical Services Assistance Program Account</i>
2020	(\$7,516,000)	\$7,516,000
2021	(\$7,516,000)	\$7,516,000
2022	(\$7,516,000)	\$7,516,000
2023	(\$7,516,000)	\$7,516,000
2024	(\$7,516,000)	\$7,516,000

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would establish the Emergency Medical Services Scholarship Program. The bill would authorize the Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to provide financial assistance to emergency medical services personnel to pay tuition and fees for eligible coursework at institutions of higher education.

The bill would also create the Emergency Medical Services Assistance Program Account as a dedicated account in the General Revenue Fund. Money in the account could only be appropriated to DSHS for certain purposes, including providing grants to trauma service area regional advisory councils and to emergency medical services personnel applying for assistance under the scholarship program. The bill would direct the Comptroller to reduce the percentage of state traffic fines allocated to the General Revenue Fund from 67 percent to 57 percent, and allocate 10 percent of state traffic fines to the Emergency Medical Services Assistance Program Account.

Emergency medical services personnel would apply to DSHS for scholarship assistance under the program.

This legislation would do one or more of the following: create or recreate a dedicated account in the General Revenue Fund, create or recreate a special or trust fund either in, with, or outside of the Treasury, or create a dedicated revenue source. Legislative policy, implemented as Government Code 403.095, consolidated special funds (except those affected by constitutional, federal, or other restrictions) into the General Revenue Fund as of August 31, 1993 and eliminated all applicable statutory revenue dedications as of August 31, 1995. Each subsequent Legislature has reviewed bills that affect funds consolidation. The fund, account, or revenue dedication included in this bill would be subject to funds consolidation review by the current Legislature.

Methodology

According to the Comptroller of Public Accounts, the bill's provisions would move an estimated \$7,516,000 each year out of undedicated General Revenue and into the new account. Any use of funds in the new account would require an appropriation prior to disbursement.

DSHS and Health and Human Services Commission indicate that the provisions of the bill could be absorbed with existing resources.

Local Government Impact

Local government entities (through Trauma Regional Advisory Councils) may experience a positive fiscal impact as the result of implementation of the legislation as proposed. However, DSHS could not calculate a specific estimate at this time.

Source Agencies: 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts, 529 Health and Human Services Commission, 537 State Health Services, Department of

LBB Staff: WP, AKi, JQ, BH