

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 16, 2019

TO: Honorable John Whitmire, Chair, Senate Committee on Criminal Justice

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

IN RE: HB1590 by Howard (relating to statewide policies and practices, personnel training, evidence collection and preservation, and data collection and analysis regarding the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of sexual assault and other sex offenses.),
Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB1590, Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted: a negative impact of (\$1,361,406) 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.

The governor is 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 governor may, but is not required to, implement a provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that purpose.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds
2020	(\$988,703)
2021	(\$372,703)
2022	(\$988,703)
2023	(\$372,703)
2024	(\$988,703)

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable (Cost) from General Revenue Fund 1	Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2019
2020	(\$988,703)	3.0
2021	(\$372,703)	3.0
2022	(\$988,703)	3.0
2023	(\$372,703)	3.0
2024	(\$988,703)	3.0

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would amend the Government Code and the Occupations Code to create a Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force within the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Governor's Office. The bill would require the task force to advise the Office of the Attorney General on rules governing the collection and preservation of evidence in sexual assault cases, advise the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement on resources to improve officer training in the investigation and documentation of sexual assault cases, biennially contract for a survey of resources provided to survivors, and develop best practice standards for the provision of resources to survivors.

The bill would take effect immediately upon receiving a two-thirds vote of all the members of each house, otherwise the bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

Methodology

Based on information provided by the Office of the Governor, this analysis assumes three additional FTEs would be needed each fiscal year in order to establish the new Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force. It is estimated that the three FTEs, including a Program Supervisor and two Program would have a total salary cost of \$261,397 each fiscal year. Benefits and payroll contribution costs would be \$91,306. Additionally, the agency has estimated travel costs of approximately \$20,000 each year for these FTEs to visit stakeholders across the state. This results in total FTE related costs of \$372,703 each fiscal year.

Based on information provided by the Office of the Governor and the bill requiring the office to biennially contract for a survey of the resources provided to survivors by various entities, this analysis assumes that a two-year grant in the amount of \$616,000 each biennium would be required for a qualified entity to survey state resources and assist with the development of best practice standards for providers of sexual assault services. This cost estimate is consistent with the amount the CJD has previously provided in grant funds to various entities for similar research projects.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 300 Truusted Programs Within the Office of the Governor, 302 Office of the Attorney General, 407 Commission on Law Enforcement

LBB Staff: WP, LBO, NV, JSm, NA