

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 25, 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: **SB2243** by Paxton (Relating to required counseling before an abortion is performed.),
Committee Report 1st House, Substituted

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for SB2243, Committee Report 1st House, Substituted: a negative impact of (\$1,920,852) 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 Health and Human Services Commission 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 commission 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	\$0
2021	(\$1,920,852)
2022	(\$3,841,704)
2023	(\$3,841,704)
2024	(\$3,841,704)

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund
2020	\$0
2021	(\$1,920,852)
2022	(\$3,841,704)
2023	(\$3,841,704)
2024	(\$3,841,704)

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would require women to receive counseling before an abortion is performed, except during a medical emergency. Under the provisions of the bill, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) would contract with one or more counseling providers throughout the state, not later than March 1, 2021. Additionally, HHSC would adopt rules not later than December 1, 2020. On and after March 1, 2021 a physician would be required to have a copy of the signed, written certification that the woman received counseling services prior to performing an abortion.

Methodology

According to HHSC, the number of Texas residents who had an abortion in fiscal year 2016, the most recent year of data, was 53,357. The current hourly rate for counseling in the Alternatives to Abortion program is \$72. It is assumed counseling services would be provided starting on March 1, 2021, which is when certification of a woman receiving counseling services would be required. Providing one hourly counseling session to women would cost \$1,920,852 in General Revenue in fiscal year 2021 and \$3,841,704 in General Revenue in fiscal years 2022 through 2024. HHSC indicates costs related to the development of the required documentation of completed counseling could be absorbed utilizing existing resources.

Based on Legislative Budget Board analysis, administrative costs at HHSC including overhead costs, salaries, travel, basic consumable supplies, and technology costs related to providing counseling services, could be absorbed utilizing existing resources.

The bill would take effect on September 1, 2019.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 503 Texas Medical Board, 529 Health and Human Services Commission

LBB Staff: WP, AKi, SK