

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 87TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 14, 2021

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

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB642 by West (Relating to the provision of mental health services for certain children at risk of relinquishment.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill amends Family Code to allow for a local mental health authority (LMHA) or local behavioral health authority (LBHA) to refer a child directly to the Health and Human Services Commission's (HHSC) relinquishment avoidance program. The bill would require HHSC and the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to jointly adopt guidance on the relinquishment avoidance program and protocols for families at risk of relinquishing a child for the sole purpose of accessing mental health services for the child. The bill would require DFPS, LMHAs, and LBHAs to follow the protocols.

It is assumed that any costs to HHSC and DFPS associated with implementing the bill could be absorbed using existing resources.

Local Government Impact

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

Source Agencies:

LBB Staff: JMc, AKI, JLI, SB