

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 88TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**May 18, 2023**

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

**FROM:** Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB617** by Darby (Relating to a pilot project to provide emergency telemedicine medical services and telehealth services in rural areas.), **As Engrossed**

**Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds** for HB617, As Engrossed : an impact of \$0 through the biennium ending August 31, 2025.

**General Revenue-Related Funds, Five- Year Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</i>
2024	\$0
2025	\$0
2026	\$0
2027	\$0
2028	\$0

**All Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Probable Savings/(Cost) from Comm State Emer Comm Acct 5007</i>
2024	(\$250,000)
2025	(\$250,000)
2026	(\$250,000)
2027	(\$250,000)
2028	(\$250,000)

**Fiscal Analysis**

The bill would amend the Health and Safety Code to provide statutory authorization for a telehealth services pilot project to be jointly administered by the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) and Texas Tech Health Sciences Center (TTHSC) for the purpose of providing telehealth services in rural areas through TTHSC.

The bill would add the pilot project to a list of allowable uses for the equalization surcharge imposed on certain telephone accounts and deposited to General Revenue-Dedicated Commission on State Emergency Communications Account No. 5007.

Statutory authorization for the pilot project would expire September 1, 2029.

## **Methodology**

According to CSEC, the cost of operating a previous, similar telehealth pilot program with TTHSC was approximately \$250,000 per year. This analysis assumes that the operation of this pilot program would require funding similar in scope to that of the previous program and require funding out of General Revenue-Dedicated Commission on State Emergency Communication Account 5007.

## **Local Government Impact**

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

**Source Agencies:** 477 Commission on State Emergency Communications, 768 Texas Tech University System Administration

**LBB Staff:** JMc, NPe, LCO, GP