



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 353** HLS 23RS 563
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

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Dept./Agy.: Education		Analyst: Julie Silva
Subject: Student behavior, discipline, & behavioral and mental health		

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 EG INCREASE GF EX See Note
 Provides relative to student behavior, discipline, and behavioral and mental health

Proposed legislation amends several statutes related to student behavior, discipline, and behavioral and mental health. Requires the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) to develop and administer a pilot program for screening students and providing services with respect to mental health and behavioral health. Additionally, proposed legislation requires the Office of Public Health create a registry of public middle and high school health centers with established adolescent health initiatives.

EXPENDITURES	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	\$0
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

There will be an increase in expenditures for the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) to develop and administer a pilot program to screen students for adverse childhood experiences and mental health and behavioral issues and provide services relating to mental and behavioral health. Proposed legislation does not identify a source of funding for the pilot program; therefore, to the extent other funding is not available, the LFO assumes an increase in SGF would be needed to meet the requirements in proposed legislation.

LDE currently employs a staff member who could lead the efforts to implement the pilot program; however this position is funded via a federal grant, project AWARE, which expires in the second quarter of FY 27. LDE plans to retain this position after project AWARE funding expires; however, a permanent funding source has not yet been identified. LDE reports they will also partner with other agencies and stakeholders, such as the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Office of Public Health (OPH) and Louisiana State University, for support in developing and administering the pilot program.

LDE provided information regarding project AWARE as an example of the cost to operate a comparable pilot program. AWARE funding, \$1.8 M per year for five years, was awarded and split amongst three partner school systems to enhance mental health services. Funding covers the costs of personnel to manage the program, with each participating system having one Community Project Manager (\$60,000 salary, \$18,000 benefits) and one to two licensed mental health professionals (\$60,000 salary, \$18,000 benefits), dependent on system enrollment. Participating systems also receive between \$160,603 and \$321,206 annually to fund additional mental health services.

Costs for the pilot program may be offset to the extent local school systems selected for the program already employ staff to conduct the required screenings and provide related services. LDE additionally reports the school-based Medicaid reimbursement program (SBMP) may be a potential source of funding for any additional providers required; however, the LFO has requested verification from LDH on the availability of these funds for this purpose. Per LDE, if a school district participates in the SBMP, a portion of the cost of hiring or contracting a behavioral health provider to screen and service students would be reimbursed by Medicaid.

Proposed legislation additionally requires OPH to develop and maintain a registry of public middle and high school health centers with established adolescent health initiatives. Based on similar databases previously developed by the agency, OPH would require an additional \$75,000 in SGF to cover the costs of a contract to meet the requirements in proposed legislation. The contracted consultant would be responsible for the development and maintenance of the registry, which includes technology and software related to establishing and maintaining a registry that provides accurate and complete records of school-based health centers registered with OPH.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Evan Brasseaux

Evan Brasseaux
 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer