



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 394** HLS 24RS 591  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 1, 2024	2:07 PM	<b>Author:</b> STAGNI
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Louisiana Department of Health		<b>Analyst:</b> Tamiko Stroud
<b>Subject:</b> Digital access to behavioral health services		

HEALTH OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides relative to a network of care

Proposed law requires the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) within the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to implement, operate, and maintain a digital network and to provide funds for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of such a program. Proposed law further provides that the digital network shall include comprehensive referral services, support, and information relating to the early intervention, prevention, and support for individuals with mental health or substance use disorder-related issues. Proposed law requires the digital network to be made available to healthcare facilities licensed in accordance with present law and providing behavioral health and substance use disorder services to patients in this state. Proposed law requires the digital network to include certain resources for military veterans.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>						
REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

The proposed legislation will result in an expenditure increase in the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) within the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) as a result of implementing, operating, and maintaining a digital network of behavioral health services. OBH reports an IT contractor is needed to develop and implement the required digital network, and a part-time staff member to operate and maintain the digital network. OBH provides a cost estimate of \$421,530 for the first year of implementation, and remaining costs for each subsequent fiscal year include a 3% market rate increase for the additional part-time staff member. The Legislative Fiscal Office cannot corroborate the necessity of the additional staff member for required services and believes OBH can operate within its current resources and budget authority to accomplish these tasks.

This measure requires OBH to implement a digital platform that provides comprehensive referral services, support, and information relating to early intervention and prevention for individuals with mental health or substance use disorder-related issues. OBH reports the need to first obtain a contractor through a request for proposals (RFP) process to determine the final cost of this implementation. OBH reports a similar contract from a vendor in FY 22 for the implementation of a digital platform that provided similar services relating to mental health, suicide prevention, and veteran's affairs for adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbance at a cost estimate of \$400,000 for the first year. OBH anticipated additional costs for the performance of out-year maintenance and a server rental for a similar digital platform at an estimated cost of \$50,000 for each subsequent fiscal year.

OBH reports the need for a part-time (.25 FTE) Program Monitor position to coordinate the implementation of the new digital network with the contractor and members of the department. OBH provides an estimated cost of \$21,350 for the first year, plus an annual 3% market increase in each subsequent fiscal year. The Program Monitor's responsibilities will include drafting and coordinating the RFP process along with the Office of State Procurement, negotiating with contractors, maintaining quality assurance, and determining any updates necessary for the required platform. OBH reports there are no other staff members who possess the expertise to perform these duties. The salary calculation of the Program Monitor position is based on a full-time Program Monitor position salaried at \$80,000 (.25 FTE x \$80,000 = \$20,000) and 7.65% in related benefits (\$20,000 x 7.65% = \$1,530).

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

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

Senate Dual Referral Rules  
 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}

**Patrice Thomas**  
**Deputy Fiscal Officer**