



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 59** SLS 24RS 148
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 2, 2024	2:17 PM	Author: FIELDS
Dept./Agy.: Secondary Education/Higher Education		Analyst: Chris Henry
Subject: Mental Health Counselors for Student Athletes		

COUNSELING/GUIDANCE OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Requires student athletes access to mental health counseling at educational institutions. (gov sig)

Proposed law requires school boards and postsecondary education institutions to provide access to mental health counselors for student athletes in high school and college. Counselors provided must be certified or licensed according the Louisiana Mental Health Counselor Licensing Act found in Chapter 13 of Title 37 in the Revised Statutes. Counselors will provide services at any given time with regard to an athletes psychological and emotional well being and specifically when requested by a parent, guardian, teacher, professor, counselor, coach, other school employee or administrator. The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Regents will promulgate rules or guidelines surrounding the program and annually report to the legislature on its implementation and effectiveness.

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

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

There is likely to be an increase in local and state expenditures resulting from the proposed measure. The LFO assumes costs to implement the requirements will be borne by school districts from local funds and postsecondary institutions using existing SGR resources, unless a specific appropriation of SGF is made for these purposes.

The majority of postsecondary institutions report having existing counselors employed on their campuses which service the student body as a whole, and in some cases employ counselors specifically to serve the student athletes. However, the Southern University System reports additional staff would be needed at its A&M and New Orleans campuses in addition to creating a counseling center at the Shreveport campus in order to comply with the proposed legislation. These costs would include two (2) counselors at SU-Shreveport, one (1) at SU-A&M, and one (1) at SU-New Orleans. The total personnel costs for these four (4) positions would be \$366,800. Additionally, operating expenses for these positions and offices total \$121,500. Finally, one-time expenses would be incurred in FY 25 to fully establish the new counseling center at SU-Shreveport (\$200,000) and purchase equipment at SU-New Orleans (\$5,000). The total cost to the Southern System would be \$693,500 in FY 25 and \$488,300 in the ensuing fiscal years. The LFO cannot fully corroborate the need for these expenditures; however, SU-Shreveport currently does not provide counseling services and would be starting a counseling center from scratch.

Parish or city school districts would incur costs to either employ, or contract with, a licensed mental health provider to provide counseling services as deemed necessary. Actual costs will vary and are dependent on several factors, including whether the district already employs a licensed mental health provider who can add the proposed responsibilities, whether the district or its schools already have mental health counseling available, and the extent to which a district and its schools participate in high school athletic events.

The Department of Education reports no costs to implement the provisions of the proposed law. The department has existing staff to issue a mental health provider ancillary certificate and collect data in order to monitor compliance. Similarly, the Board of Regents can administer the requirements with existing staff.

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