



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 486** HLS 25RS 968  
Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**  
Opp. Chamb. Action:  
  
Proposed Amd.:  
Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 21, 2025	2:47 PM	<b>Author:</b> FISHER
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Education		
<b>Subject:</b> Mental health assessments for grades 4-12		<b>Analyst:</b> Julie Silva

HEALTH RE INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
Requires public schools to offer a mental health assessment to certain students

Proposed legislation requires public schools to make available a mental health assessment by a licensed behavioral health provider for all students in grades three through 12, if authorized by a parent or guardian, each school year, with every effort made to ensure they are completed in the first semester in a given year. Requires Managed Care Organizations (MCO) to provide a list of eligible providers to LDH for the department’s use in preparing a list of available licensed behavioral health providers within each school system’s jurisdiction. Requires each local school system to provide an annual report to LDH on the number of students administered screenings, by grade level.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	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	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	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

Proposed legislation is expected to increase the number of Medicaid-eligible students receiving behavioral health assessments, which will result in an increase in Medicaid-related SGF and Federal Funds expenditures. To the extent that assessments lead to additional Medicaid eligible services, there will be an additional impact to Medicaid expenditures. Based on the current percentage of school-age children enrolled in Medicaid services, the LFO anticipates expenditures may increase significantly; however, actual impacts that may be realized are indeterminable due to the many variables involved.

**Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE)** - Assessments are to be provided at no cost to a city, parish, or other local public school board. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) provides some school systems may currently employ licensed behavioral health providers who can conduct assessments upon request, which may offset increased SGF expenditures that would otherwise be realized using other implementation methods.

**LDH, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH)** - Proposed legislation requires Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to provide a list of eligible providers to LDH for the department’s use in preparing a list of available licensed behavioral health providers within each school system’s jurisdiction. A licensed behavioral health provider is defined as either (1) a licensed behavioral health provider approved by LDH to provide behavioral health services and who is properly credentialed by an accrediting body, or (2) an individual provider who is licensed and authorized to conduct mental health assessments. Provision of this information can be completed by OBH at no additional cost to the department.

**LA Medicaid** - It is anticipated that additional assessments will result in additional Medicaid expenditures. For mental health assessments performed by behavioral health providers, the services will be covered as follows: (1) Medicaid for students who are covered by Medicaid or determined to be Medicaid eligible; or (2) third-party insurers for students with private insurance. The bill does not direct how assessments conducted by providers will be funded. To the extent proposed legislation results in more students receiving mental health assessments, expenditures in Medicaid may be impacted. It is unknown how many parents will authorize mental health assessments for their children.

*Note: LFO has requested additional information from LDH concerning potential costs for this subset of Medicaid eligible students and will update this fiscal note when such information is received.*

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate	Dual Referral Rules	House	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}	
			<div>Patrice Thomas Deputy Fiscal Officer</div>