

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-1

AN ACT EQUALIZING COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS TO MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 8687)

Senate Calendar No.: 295

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Mental Health & Addiction Serv., Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	500,000	500,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	115,000	126,000
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	25,000	None
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	555,000	565,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The sections below have a fiscal impact. Sections not listed are not anticipated to have a fiscal impact on the state or municipalities.

Section 2 establishes a Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health, to document and make recommendations to decrease the effect of racism on public health. The commission shall be part of the Legislative Department.

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.3% of payroll in FY 22 and FY 23.

The commission, by majority vote and with the assistance of Legislative Management (OLM) shall hire an Executive Director. The Executive Director may hire not more than two executive assistants to assist in carrying out the duties of the commission. This is estimated to cost \$390,000 in FY 22 and \$431,000 in FY 23 for salaries and fringe benefits. OLM will also need consulting assistance to develop a strategic plan as well as compiling demographic information, estimated to cost \$250,000 annually. The start-up costs for these new employees is estimated to cost \$30,000 in FY 22 and \$10,000 in FY 23 for laptops, furniture, office supplies, and mileage reimbursement expenses.

Section 6 requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to conduct an assessment of racial equity within its environmental health quality programs. It also requires DEEP to submit a report to the Environment Committee including legislative recommendations to improve racial equity within these programs by January 1, 2022. This requirement is anticipated to result in one-time costs to DEEP in FY 22 of up to \$25,000 associated with hiring an outside consultant to perform the racial equity audit as DEEP does not currently have staff with expertise for this purpose.

Section 17 results in a cost to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to increase access to mobile crisis services by extending service hours. Currently, DMHAS supports 18 mobile crisis teams throughout the state at a cost of approximately \$11.6 million in state and federal funds, with the additional support of \$700,000 for the crisis call center and \$4.7 million for crisis respite services. The actual cost of the expansion depends on the number of additional service hours provided by existing teams. While the cost per mobile crisis team varies by size, the average cost per hour is approximately \$10,700 per team.

Section 17 also requires DMHAS to develop and submit a plan to the Public Health and Appropriations Committees, by January 1, 2022, to make mobile crisis services available throughout the state twenty-

four hours per day and seven days per week. This has no fiscal impact as DMHAS has the expertise necessary to develop such a plan.

Section 21 requires that the Department of Public Health shall, within available appropriations, implement the state loan repayment program for community-based health care providers in primary care settings in FY 22. sHB 6439, the FY 22 and FY 23 budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, appropriated \$500,000 for this purpose in each of FY 22 and FY 23.

Senate "A" strikes the original bill and its associated fiscal impact, thus becoming the bill with the above referenced fiscal impact.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.