

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-7215

AN ACT CONCERNING PROBLEM GAMING.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Mental Health & Addiction Serv., Dept.	GF - Cost	at least \$853,000	at least \$853,000
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	42,000	42,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to establish a program to provide Internet gaming disorder prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services to impacted individuals and families in the state.

DMHAS will incur costs of at least \$103,000 to support a Prevention Services Coordinator (with associated fringe of approximately \$42,000) to oversee the problem gaming expansion and manage related contracts. Assuming DMHAS contracts with the regional behavioral health action organizations (RBHAOs) for prevention services, DMHAS will experience additional costs of approximately \$750,000 (\$150,000 per region) to support problem gaming prevention work as well as outreach and education. While the extent of the need for treatment services is

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 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

currently unknown, DMHAS may utilize the BETTOR Choice program infrastructure to expand clinical services to address problem gaming (estimated cost of approximately \$75,000 per program or \$375,000 for five programs).

The bill allows DMHAS to impose a reasonable fee, on a sliding scale, on program participants who can afford to pay for any such services, resulting in a potential revenue gain to the state.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.