LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE Louisiana egislative 🕴 **Fiscal Note** Fiscal SB 349 SLS 24RS Office Fiscal Note On: 522 Fiscal Bill Text Version: ENGROSSED Notes Opp. Chamb. Action: Proposed Amd .: Sub. Bill For.: 11:04 AM

Dept./Agy.: EDUCATION

Date: April 10, 2024

Subject: You Are More Than Your Sport Act

Analyst: Julie Silva

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Author: BARROW

SCHOOLS

EG SEE FISC NOTE LF EX See Note

Provides for mental health evaluations of high school student athletes who are injured while participating in a sporting event. (gov sig)

Proposed legislation requires that each public school system and postsecondary institution must administer mental health evaluations to high school student athletes injured while participating in an interscholastic athletic event, and further requires the system or institution to provide mental health resources to assist such a student, if necessary or appropriate. Provides this legislation will be known as the You Are More Than Your Sport Act. Effective upon governor's signature.

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

High School Athletes

Proposed legislation may result in an indeterminable increase in state and local fund expenditures for each university and school system to either employ, or contract with, a licensed mental health provider to provide injured high school athletes mental health evaluations, and to subsequently provide any mental health resources deemed necessary. Impacts will vary and are dependent on several factors, including whether a school system already employs a licensed mental health provider able to administer a mental health evaluation, whether the system has mental health resources available, and the extent to which a system participates in interscholastic high school athletic events.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) provided that, to the extent a mental health evaluation indicates additional interventions are required, local school systems should collaborate with the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA), as they are the body that governs the medical clearance of high school athletes. The LHSAA partners with Ochsner Health to provide healthcare training and education to all LHSAA member programs. It is unknown if these services could be extended to those related to mental health, but to the extent they can and school systems are able to use them for any required mental health evaluations and/or resources, fiscal impacts to local school districts would be lessened.

The majority of postsecondary institutions report having existing counselors employed on their campuses who provide services to 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, New Orleans, and Shreveport campuses in order to comply with the proposed legislation. These costs would include one (1) counselor at SU-Shreveport, one (1) at SU-A&M, and one (1) at SU-New Orleans. The total personnel costs for these three (3) positions would be \$336,000. Additionally, operating expenses for these positions total \$30,000. Finally, one-time expenses would be incurred in FY 25 to purchase equipment at all three campuses (\$31,000). The total cost to the Southern System would be \$397,000 in FY 25, reduce to \$382,800 in FY 26, and increase annually as a result of anticipated increases in salaries, benefits, and operating expenses 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 required to offer such services for the first time.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

