



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 909** HLS 26RS 1081
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 14, 2026 8:49 PM	Author: SPELL, ANNIE
Dept./Agy.: Insurance/Group Benefits/Department of Health	
Subject: Required coverage for behavioral health crisis services	Analyst: Anthony Shamis

INSURANCE OR INCREASE EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Required coverage for behavioral health crisis services

Proposed law requires health insurance issuers, including the Office of Group Benefits (OGB), to include coverage for mobile crisis response and behavioral health crisis care services provided by eligible providers.

Proposed law allows coverage required under this legislation to be subject to annual deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments as are consistent with those established by the health insurance issuer. Prior authorization shall not be required for mobile crisis response and behavioral health crisis care services.

Proposed law requires that in order to be eligible to provide mobile crisis response services and behavioral health crisis care services, a provider must be licensed in accordance with applicable law and coordinate and share information with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) sanctioned Crisis Hub.

Effective July 1, 2027.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	\$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						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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 law is expected to increase expenditures beginning in FY 28 and in subsequent fiscal years due to the required coverage of behavioral health crisis services. Proposed law is expected to increase SGR claims expenditures by an estimated \$80,627 to \$161,254 within the Office of Group Benefits (OGB), as well as a potential increase in SGF expenditures associated with a mandate to health insurance policies issued under the insurance exchanges beginning in FY 28, with costs increasing in future fiscal years.

Note: Because the proposed law creates a new mandated benefit, the Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI) is currently conducting an actuarial analysis to determine the extent to which the required coverage exceeds the Essential Health Benefits benchmark standards and triggers state defrayal obligations. LDI is working with its consulting actuary to develop an estimate of potential defrayal costs. Upon receipt of this information, this fiscal note will be updated to reflect any anticipated SGF impact.

OGB SGR Increase Beginning in FY 28:

OGB's medical Third Party Administrator (TPA) estimates that this legislation may increase OGB claims expenditures beginning in FY 28 in order to provide coverage for mobile crisis response and behavioral health crisis care services by a cost ranging from \$0.04 to \$0.08 PMPM for OGB's self-funded health plan population, excluding Medicare primary members. Based upon the assumptions listed on the following page, the expenditures to provide coverage for the required behavioral health crisis services are as follows:

	FY 26-27*	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	FY 29-30	FY 30-31	Total
Low	\$0	\$ 80,627	\$ 82,401	\$ 84,214	\$ 86,067	\$333,309
High	\$0	\$161,254	\$164,802	\$168,428	\$172,133	\$666,617

*Effective July 1, 2027, expenditures are anticipated to increase beginning in FY 28.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

REVENUE EXPLANATION

OGB does not anticipate that the proposed law will require premium increases; therefore, there is no expected impact on self-generated revenues collected from premiums. OGB indicates that the costs associated with providing coverage for mobile crisis response and behavioral health crisis care may be absorbed within the existing fund balance reserve. As of January 31, 2026, the OGB fund balance was \$406 million.

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}

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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

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EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Unless OGB Fund Balance is utilized, an SGF appropriation will be required to cover the state portion of the increase in premium costs. SGF currently makes up approximately 42% of premium collections. As of 1/31/26, OGB reports a \$406 M fund balance. The expenditure estimate is based upon requirements of the proposed law as well as the following assumptions: (1) No impact to expenditures in FY 27. (2) Coverage will become effective on 7/01/27 (FY 28). (3) As of 3/01/26, the current OGB member population in the five self-funded health plans is 167,973 (excluding Medicare primary members) and membership will remain constant. (4) Medicare-primary plan members are excluded from the calculations. (5) OGB will rely on the low-end and high-end PMPM cost estimates provided by Louisiana Blue. (6) In future fiscal years, a medical inflation factor of 2.2%, based on Consumer Price Index data for medical care in the Southern United States through the end of 2025.

Based on the aforementioned methodology, the PMPM cost estimates a range from a low of \$0.04 PMPM to a high of \$0.08 PMPM beginning in FY 28, and a medical inflation (MI) factor of 2.2% compounding annually. Below are expenditure calculations utilized to project the cost within OGB utilizing the assumptions listed above.

Expenditure Calculations

Expenditure Calculations = membership population x PMPM cost x 12 months

FY 28 (Low) = \$ 80,627 = 167,973 x \$0.04 x 12 months (\$33,636 SGF)

FY 28 (High) = \$161,254 = 167,973 x \$0.08 x 12 months (\$67,272 SGF)

FY 29 (Low) = \$ 82,401 = \$ 80,627 x 2.2% MI (\$34,376 SGF)

FY 29 (High) = \$164,802 = \$161,254 x 2.2% MI (\$68,752 SGF)

FY 30 (Low) = \$ 84,214 = \$ 82,401 x 2.2% MI (\$35,132 SGF)

FY 30 (High) = \$168,428 = \$164,802 x 2.2% MI (\$70,265 SGF)

FY 31 (Low) = \$ 86,067 = \$ 84,214 x 2.2% MI (\$35,905 SGF)

FY 31 (High) = \$172,133 = \$168,428 x 2.2% MI (\$71,811 SGF)

Note: Effective July 1, 2027, expenditures are anticipated to increase beginning in FY 28.

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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}
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