



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 486** HLS 25RS 968
Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**
Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: June 12, 2025	3:05 PM	Author: FISHER
Dept./Agy.: Education		
Subject: Mental health assessments for grades 4-12		Analyst: Julie Silva

HEALTH

EN INCREASE GF EX See Note

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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 each local school system to provide an annual report to the Louisiana Department of Education on the number of students administered screenings, by grade level. Provides public schools may locate a current list of licensed mental health professionals who are authorized to conduct mental health assessments by contacting the individual licensing boards that regulate the licensed professionals and a current list of behavioral health service providers licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) through the LDH website.

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	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
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. Local school systems are expected to realize an increase in workload associated with coordinating the administration of mental health assessments and mandated reporting requirements. The LFO is unable to determine individual system impacts; however, if a school site or system does not currently employ personnel sufficient to meet the requirements of proposed legislation, impacts may be significant.

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.

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

☒ 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}

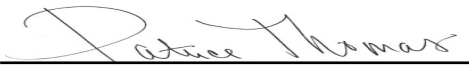
☐ 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

Dual Referral Rules

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}



Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer