



OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: HB 511 HLS 18RS 624
Bill Text Version: ORIGINAL
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.: REVISED

Date: April 4, 2018 5:01 PM Author: BACALA
Dept./Agy.: Local Law Enforcement, School Boards, & Parishes
Subject: School Violence & Terrorism Analyst: Stuart Dickey

MENTAL HEALTH OR INCREASE EX See Note Page 1 of 2
Requires a mental health evaluation of persons who threaten public safety or physical harm to other persons

Purpose of the Bill: This bill requires school employees to report a "threat of violence" or a "threat of terrorism" to local law enforcement. If individuals willfully fail to report, they will be subject to fines of between \$500 and \$3,000. This bill requires each parish to develop and implement investigative procedures for these threats, and requires local law enforcement to investigate the threats made by the suspect. If the suspect is an adult, local law enforcement is required to petition the judicial district court for a mental health evaluation of the suspect. If the suspect is a minor, the local child protection unit of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is to petition the court for the evaluation. Without such an evaluation, subjects cannot return to school or be in a certain proximity of the school.

Table with 7 columns: EXPENDITURES/REVENUES, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 5-YEAR TOTAL. Rows include State Gen. Fd., Agy. Self-Gen., Ded./Other, Federal Funds, Local Funds, and Annual Total for both categories.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

This bill may increase State General Fund, Federal Fund, and Local Government Fund expenditures by an indeterminable amount.

Schools/Parishes

Louisiana School Boards Association - An official indicated that this bill may increase school board expenditures by an interminable amount related to security at schools to bar individuals from campus and to train employees on recognizing threats of violence and terrorism.

Rapides Parish Government - An official indicated that there would be no increase to expenditures in relation to developing investigative procedures as required by this bill.

Local Law Enforcement

East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office - Officials indicated that the bill would not impact expenditures as the requirements of the bill fall under the scope of service provided by the Sheriff.

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REVENUE EXPLANATION

This bill may increase Agency Self-Generated, Federal Fund, and Local Government Fund revenues by an indeterminable amount. This bill provides for mental health evaluations for suspects making threats of violence or terrorism against school employees or students under certain circumstances. Revenue may increase for governmental entities performing these evaluations based on the fee amount and the number performed. An official with the Capital Area Human Services District indicated that the District's fee for performing these evaluations is \$120. However, an official with the 22nd Judicial District Court (Parishes of St. Tammany and Washington) indicated that the cost of these evaluations statewide range from \$800 to \$1,500. We were unable to determine the number of evaluations that would be required as a result of this bill despite contacting several governmental entities and associations. We were informed that Medicaid may pay for evaluations performed on indigent subjects.

This bill provides for fines against school employees who willfully fail to report threats of violence or terrorism. This provision may increase revenues for the receiving governmental entity depending on the number of instances in which fines are imposed and the fine amount.

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}

Signature of Michael G. Battle
Michael G. Battle
Manager, Advisory Services



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:
Local Law Enforcement (continued expenditure explanation)

Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office - An official indicated that the impact of the bill is indeterminable. However, if caseload increases significantly, the Sheriff may need to hire an additional investigator at a cost of \$60,000 annually for salary and benefits.

St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office - An official indicated that that the Sheriff would need to make changes to departmental policies and software. However, the cost of these changes could not be determined.

DCFS

DCFS - Officials indicated that this bill could significantly increase department expenditures by an indeterminable amount due to the bill expanding the department's scope of services, as DCFS indicated that they do not currently perform the duties required by this bill.

Judicial District Court

22nd Judicial District Court (Parishes of St. Tammany & Washington) - An official indicated that this bill will not impact the expenditures of the court as the additional caseload would be handled by existing resources.

Mental Health Evaluation Information

Capital Area Human Services District - An official indicated that the District's expenditures would not be impacted due to this bill, as they would absorb additional evaluations. However, this official indicated that Medicaid may pay for these mental health evaluations (increasing federal and state expenditure matches). The official did not know how many evaluations would result from this bill.

Caddo Parish Coroner - An official indicated that hospitals may perform the mental health evaluations required by this bill. While the cost of the evaluation is the patient's responsibility and may be paid by the patient's insurance, Medicaid may pay for these evaluations if the patient is indigent.

Senate

Dual Referral Rules

House

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

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Manager, Advisory Services