

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2351 - SB 2443

February 29, 2024

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes a temporary youth mental health services program (program) within the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS), to facilitate access to mental health services for youth regarding mental health needs identified in mental health screenings, including needs that have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Requires the DMHSAS to enter into an agreement with a vendor by August 1, 2024, to create or use an existing website or web-based application as a portal available to youth and healthcare providers to facilitate the program.

Directs the DMHSAS to develop an application process for reimbursement from the program to participating providers and entitles such providers for reimbursement for up to three mental health sessions with a youth. Authorizes the DMHSAS to reimburse a provider for additional sessions. Requires the DMHSAS to implement a statewide public awareness and outreach campaign about the program.

Requires the DMHSAS to compile a report regarding the status of the program to the Chair of the Health and Welfare Committee of the Senate, and the Chair of the Health Committee of the House of Representatives on or before July 1, 2025.

Authorizes funds in the K-12 Mental Health Special Reserve Account to be expended for the program, and requires the program to be funded through such source. Repeals the program on July 1, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$2,536,900/FY24-25/Mental Health Trust Fund

Assumptions:

- The DMHSAS will contract with a vendor to implement the program by August 1, 2024.
- The total cost to contract for a new portal and interface system is estimated to be \$200,000 in FY24-25.
- In order to implement a statewide public awareness and outreach campaign, the DMHSAS will require approximately \$40,000 in FY24-25.

- It is estimated that that approximately 377,614 youth will be eligible to receive services under the temporary program. Of that number, is estimated that two percent, or 7,552 (377,614 x 2%), will participate in FY24-25.
- The DMHSAS will reimburse three mental health sessions for each participant, at a rate of approximately \$101.38 per session.
- The increase in expenditures for mental health treatment is estimated to be \$2,296,865 (7,552 youth x \$101.38 x 3 sessions) in FY24-25.
- A total increase in state expenditures of \$2,536,865 (\$200,000 + \$40,000 + \$2,296,865) in FY24-25.
- The DMHSAS can compile and submit to required reports utilizing existing personnel and resources, without an increase in expenditures.
- According to the Department of Treasury, the balance in the K-12 Mental Health Special Reserve Account was \$31 million, as of December 31, 2023.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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