

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 1099S.01I
Bill No.: SB 257
Subject: Department of Corrections; Medical Procedures and Personnel; Prisons and Jails
Type: Original
Date: March 3, 2023

Bill Summary: This proposal creates provisions relating to inmate co-pays for medical treatment.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

- Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§217.243 – Co-pays for medical treatment

Officials from the **Department of Corrections (DOC)** state this proposal creates provisions relating to inmate co-pays for medical treatments. This legislation mandates a 50-cent co-pay be assessed to offenders for each nonemergency medical exam or treatment, unless the offender is indigent. Co-pays are not charged for preventative care, emergency care, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, along with others.

Section 217.243.4 states “[n]o inmate shall be denied needed medical treatment because of a lack of ability to pay. Inmates shall receive appropriate medical care based on their present need, without regard to financial status.” Therefore, the department assumes this proposed legislation of charging a co-pay will likely generate minimal revenue.

This proposal could require additional administrative resources with determining whether a visit requires a co-pay, processing a green check for the co-pay, and determining indigent status. It is unknown at this time who would be required to process the co-pay, who would determine the indigent status, or how many additional staff would be needed to accommodate the increase in grievances and appeals this legislation may incur. Therefore, it is unknown how many additional staff and FTE would be needed for each site.

The department could likely see an increased number of indigent offenders and, therefore, additional hygiene and legal supplies would be required. The actual cost of this is unknown at this time.

According to this proposal, offenders will not be charged a co-pay for staff referrals. This may result in offenders going to non-medical staff with their medical issues and non-medical staff being involved in making a determination for a referral. It is unknown how many offenders would require and seek non-emergency exams or treatments without a staff referral.

Due to these circumstances, the department assumes an unknown cost/savings impact.

Oversight assumes the DOC would be able to absorb any additional responsibilities this proposal may have on the agency. Oversight also assumes the state would not receive a material amount of proceeds as a result of the 50 cents per medical visit charge. Oversight assumes the 50 cents charge may be handled entirely within the inmate’s account within the correctional institution’s system. For example, if the inmate spent 50 cents on a medical visit, this would reduce the amount available to be spent by the inmate in the institutional canteen. Therefore,

Oversight will not reflect a direct fiscal impact to the state's General Revenue Fund from this proposal.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2024 (10 Mo.)	FY 2025	FY 2026
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2024 (10 Mo.)	FY 2025	FY 2026
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

The proposed legislation appears to have no direct fiscal impact.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Corrections



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March 3, 2023



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March 3, 2023