

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
DHFS 3/20/2007

LRB Number 07-1649/2	Introduction Number AB-0173	Estimate Type Original
Description Relating to: membership of the Council on Mental Health		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current state law, the Council on Mental Health in the Department of Health and Family Services is required to consist of 15 members, nominated by the secretary of health and family services and appointed by the governor, who include representatives of consumers of mental health services and consumer family members; private mental health services organizations or groups; mental health service providers; and state and county agencies.

Under current federal law, as a condition for receipt of moneys under a federal mental health block grant, a state must establish and maintain a mental health planning council. Membership of the council must include representatives of principal state agencies with respect to mental health, education, vocational rehabilitation, criminal justice, housing, and social services and with respect to development of the state plan for Medical Assistance. Membership must also include representatives of public and private mental health service entities; adults with serious mental illnesses who are receiving or have received mental health services; and the families of those adults or families of children with emotional disturbances. Of this membership, at least 50 percent must be individuals who are not state employees or providers of mental health services.

This bill increases the required number of members of the Council on Mental Health to be not less than 21 nor more than 25. The bill eliminates all requirements for representation of agencies and groups and all requirements for proportions of total membership and, instead, requires that the members include representatives of groups and a proportion of members as specified in federal law. The bill includes provisions to stagger the lengths of terms of initial members of the expanded membership.

This bill has no fiscal effect on the Department or county human services or social services departments.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications