

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 3/27/2021

LRB Number	21-0532/1	Introduction Number	AB-0092	Estimate Type	Original
Description grant to a hospital for expanding psychiatric bed capacity					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Currently, if a county needs to admit a patient for mental health or substance use treatment under an emergency medical detention, and if facilities in local region are unavailable or unwilling to accept the emergency detention, counties must use local staff and resources to transport the individual in crisis to the Winnebago Mental Health Institution (WMWHI) in Oshkosh, WI. WMHI is statutorily obligated to accept all admissions to the facility from all parts of Wisconsin and, under the provisions of this bill, the facility's statutory obligations would not change.

Under this bill, \$15,000,000 in FY 22 general fund supported borrowing (GFSB) could be authorized to provide a grant to Eau Claire area hospitals to expand the capacity of psychiatric care beds by approximately 22 beds. The bill identifies a physical location for the grant awardees, specifying a hospital located in Eau Claire, south of the Chippewa River and Northeast of the Highway 12 and 37 intersections and that serves in a health system that has a hospital in Chippewa County. Currently, the only hospital that meets these criteria is HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire.

This bill requires hospitals receiving the grants to give admissions preferences to individuals who are admitted under an emergency detention and who arrive from one of the 29 counties located primarily in Wisconsin's northwestern region. If the hospitals do not use the grants to expand psychiatric bed capacity, the state will retain an ownership interest in the expansion equal to the amount of the state's grants.

The bill is expected to cost \$15,000,000 GFSB. It is possible adding 22 psychiatric care beds in the Eau Claire area could reduce admissions to WMHI and the amount of program revenue received for admissions to the institute. The precise impact on the annual number of admissions to WMHI is unknown. The potential change in admissions is not expected to be significant enough to result in staffing reductions at WMHI, and therefore the bill will not significantly affect WMHI costs.

The impact on county costs will depend on the number of emergency detention counties send to the Eau Claire hospital in lieu of WMHI, the difference between the rates charged by the Eau Claire hospital and WMHI, and any differences in county transportation costs.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications