

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 8/17/2021

LRB Number	21-3085/1	Introduction Number	AB-0479	Estimate Type	Original
Description reimbursement rates for behavioral treatment services under the Medical Assistance program					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, the Medical Assistance program in Wisconsin includes a benefit for behavioral treatment services, which was created in 2016 following federal guidance. This benefit includes treatments for autism, as well as other diagnoses or conditions associated with adaptive behavior deficiencies or maladaptive behaviors. A total of \$50.3 million all funds in reimbursements were made for behavioral treatment services related to autism delivered in FY 2020.

This bill directs DHS to increase the reimbursement rates for behavioral treatment services related to autism under the Medical Assistance Program by 25% starting on July 1, 2021, though, due to federal public notice requirements, this rate increase could only be implemented prospectively. The bill would not change any other aspects of the behavioral treatment service benefit.

The 2021–23 biennial budget includes \$9.7 million all funds (\$3.9 million GPR) to support a projected 15% rate increase for behavioral treatment services, effective January 1, 2022. The additional cost to Wisconsin Medicaid to fund the difference between the budgeted 15% rate increase and a 25% rate increase is estimated to be \$5.2 million all funds (\$2.1 million GPR) annually.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications