

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 2510

PRINTER NO. 3866

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

COVID-19 Response Restricted Account

DATE INTRODUCED

May 12, 2020

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Turzai

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 2510 as amended creates a new program in the Fiscal Code for regional health collaboratives. This legislation requires the Department of Human Services to divide the state into six regions, solicit proposals from health collaboratives to protect residents in long-term care facilities from COVID-19 and contract with at least one health collaborative in each region. Each health collaborative shall:

1. Promote health and stabilize the economy by directly supporting COVID-19 readiness and response in facilities;
2. Improve the quality of care related to infection prevention and other conditions common in facilities; and
3. Expand COVID-19 testing to include asymptomatic staff and residents in facilities to expand public health surveillance.

The bill also requires each collaborative to perform daily strategic reviews of the region's facilities and to form plans for the facilities' unmet needs. The health collaborative must provide for enhanced testing capability, infection control including contact tracing, and advanced clinical care including remote monitoring and physician care. Facilities include assisted living residences, long-term care facilities and personal care homes.

House Bill 2510 also creates the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account and requires all funding received from the federal government under Division A of Title V of the CARES Act to be deposited into the account. Additionally, the bill requires all money in the account to be appropriated by the General Assembly.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Human Services is able to accommodate the administrative requirements of HB 2510 within existing staffing and budget levels.

Additionally, House Bill 2510 provides for the distribution of \$2.1 billion of the \$2.6 billion appropriated from the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account in the following manner:

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- Dairy Assistance - \$20 million to farmers who experienced a loss with the production of milk that was discarded, of which \$5 million shall be distributed through the Pennsylvania Agriculture Surplus System. Payments for discarded milk will include a \$1500 base payment and a pro-rata share of any funds remaining based on the volume of milk discarded.
- State Food Purchase - \$20 million, of which \$5 million shall be distributed through the Pennsylvania Agriculture Surplus System.
- Food Access Initiative - \$10 million to address the need for access to fresh food in urban and underserved areas.
- County Block Grant - \$625 million to be allocated proportionally by population to counties that did not receive direct funding from the federal government.
- Cultural and Museum Preservation Grants - \$20 million to be distributed by the Commonwealth Financing Agency to eligible organizations.
- PreK Counts – \$7 million to be distributed through the current program. At the current per child rate, this funding is estimated to provide services to 800 children.
- Headstart - \$2 million distributed through the current program. At the current per child rate, this funding is estimated to provide services to 230 children.
- Community-Based Health Care Centers - \$10 million to be distributed proportionally based on amount of funds received from the CARES Act.
- Long-Term Living Programs - \$632 million distributed in the following manner:
 - Health Collaboratives - \$175 million distributed among the health collaboratives in the Commonwealth.
 - Nursing Facilities - \$245 million
 - \$196 million to be allocated based on Medical Assistance days of care;
 - \$49 million to be allocated based on licensed beds for all facilities.
 - Personal Assistance Services - \$140 million
 - \$112 million to be allocated proportionally based on the health care or home care provider model;
 - \$28 million to be allocated proportionally based on the participant-directed model.

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- Assisted Living Facilities and Personal Care Homes - \$50 million
 - \$45 million to be allocated proportionally based on occupancy;
 - \$5 million to be allocated proportionally based on the number of SSI residents.
- Adult Day Services - \$13 million to be allocated proportionally based on total Medical Assistance Fee-For-Service and Community HealthChoices payments.
- Residential Habilitation - \$1 million to be allocated proportionally based on total Medical Assistance Fee-For-Service and Community HealthChoices payments.
- Ventilator Services - \$8 million to be allocated proportionally based on the number of recipients. Eligible facilities are required to have 10 or more Medical Assistance patients and at least 17% of patients receiving ventilator or tracheostomy services.
- Community HealthChoices - \$50 million to be distributed proportionally based on Medical Assistance participants.
- Long-Term Care Managed Care (LIFE) - \$10 million to be distributed through the base program according to reimbursements for the first quarter of 2020.
- Community ID Waiver - \$259.3 million distributed through the current program.
- Child Care Services - \$116 million with the distribution to be determined by an economic impact survey that will be completed in July.
- Domestic Violence - \$10 million to be distributed through the current program.
- Homeless Assistance - \$10 million to be allocated through the current program.
- Legal Services - \$8 million to be distributed through the current program.
- Critical Access Hospitals - \$10 million to be proportionally distributed through the base program according to FY 2019-20 allocations.
- Health Care System Assistance - \$50 million to replace the funds transferred from special funds as part of Act 10 of 2020.
- Student Loan Interest Forbearance Program - \$2.2 million to provide for interest payment relief.
- PHFA Mortgage and Rental Assistance - \$175 million will be used to provide rent and mortgage assistance payments for those who experienced income loss due to COVID-19. \$150 million will be provided for rental assistance of \$750 per month for no more than six months. \$25 million will be provided for mortgage assistance of \$1000 per month for no more than six months.

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- State System of Higher Education - \$30 million to be distributed to institutions based on 2019 fall enrollment.

In addition, the bill requires \$50 million of funding made available through Act 10 of 2020 to be returned to the respective fund from which it was originally transferred without the ability for those funds to be spent. Those funds and transfer amounts are as follows:

- Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank Fund – \$5,000,000
- Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Fund – \$4,000,000
- Volunteer Company Loan Fund – \$6,000,000
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund – \$5,000,000
- Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund – \$30,000,000

All federal funding provided through House Bill 2510 is a one-time payment for costs related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Additionally, House Bill 2510 requires any funding that remains unspent by December 1, 2020, to be redistributed through the County Block Grant program.