

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 675

PRINTER NO. 820

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 28, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Brooks

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 675 enacts the Buprenorphine Medically Assisted Treatment Act (the act) providing for the licensure of buprenorphine prescribers.

The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (department) shall establish a program for certification of buprenorphine office-based prescribers and charge a fee of no more than \$500 for such certification during the first year of the certification program and thereafter in an amount no more than needed to reimburse the department for the cost to administer and enforce the act.

Senate Bill 675 stipulates that no buprenorphine office-based prescriber shall prescribe buprenorphine unless:

- The patient provides evidence of active participation in a licensed addiction treatment program;
- The evidence of participation is documented in the patient’s medical record; and
- The buprenorphine office-based prescriber is certified by the department.

The department shall report violations of the act to appropriate licensure boards.

A person who violates the act and is licensed by a licensure board shall be subject to discipline by the licensure board, including license suspension or revocation or an appropriate fine or other penalty.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 675 will cost an estimated \$1.8 million which will be offset by \$1.1 million in certification fees in the first year. The legislation will have no fiscal impact in the following years because the department is allowed to adjust the certification fee to cover its costs to enforce this act.

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The department estimates that it will require an additional 19 positions (16 D&A Treatment Specialist 1, two D&A Treatment Specialist Supervisors, and one Administrative Officer 1). The estimate for the salaries is \$800,000 and an additional \$800,000 for benefits that total \$1.6 million for salaries and benefits. In addition, the department estimates that the additional staff will require one-time equipment costs of \$160,000 and annual travel costs of \$75,000.

Based upon the Buprenorphine Treatment Practitioner Locator from The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) website, there are 2,198 physicians authorized to treat opioid dependency with buprenorphine. Assuming all of the physicians agree to be certified and pay the first year certification fee of \$500, the department will receive \$1.1 million in revenue.

Beginning in year two, the annual estimated cost to run the program will be \$1.6 million. If all 2,198 physicians continue to be certified, the new certification fee will be \$728 per year.