

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-5346

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO FUND SOCIAL WORKERS IN EMERGENCY SHELTERS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Department of Housing	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost to the Department of Housing (DOH) to establish a pilot program to fund social workers in emergency shelters. Under the bill, DOH must:

1. assess the unmet needs for on-site social worker services in emergency shelters in the state and report on the program's performance and
2. provide assistance to enable such shelters to recruit and retain social workers to meet their needs for such on-site services for a two-year period beginning on October 1, 2022.

To meet the bill's requirements, it is anticipated that DOH will contract for services from a third-party to conduct the needs assessment and administer and report on the program, as the agency does not have the necessary expertise or resources to do it in-house. Both grant costs and program administration/reporting costs will depend on the number of shelters to be included in the pilot program and the unmet

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3/28/22

needs of those shelters for social worker funding, which are both currently unknown.

For reference, the base starting salary for a state clinical social worker is \$78,147 per year and there are currently 30 homeless shelters being funded through DOH's Emergency Shelter Services Program. It is anticipated that costs would be incurred for about 2.5 years beginning in July 2022.

The Out Years

Some of the pilot program costs described above are expected to be incurred during FY 25, as the two-year funding ends October 1, 2024, and DOH must submit its report to the Housing Committee of the General Assembly by December 1, 2024.

*Sources: Department of Housing
Job Classes Online Database: Department of Administrative Services*