

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 940

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☒ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Cosgrove

3. Committee: Senate Finance

4. Title: Mental health screening in jails

5. Summary:

The proposed legislation requires each local and regional jail to administer a mental health screening for each person admitted to the jail. The screening must be conducted with a scientifically validated instrument, designated by the Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and capable of being administered by someone other than a health care provider, provided that the employee has been trained in its use. If the screening indicates that the person may have a mental illness, an assessment of the person's need for mental health services must be conducted within 72 hours of the screening by a qualified mental health professional.

The bill also requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to develop and deliver a training program for employees of local and regional jails in the administration of the designated screening instrument.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: None. The Governor's introduced budget bill includes funding for the fiscal impact of this legislation. Also, Chapter 780, enacted by the 2016 General Assembly, includes funding for pilot projects for improving the ability of jails to identify and manage mentally ill inmates.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.
Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2018	\$4,200,000	General
2019	\$4,200,000	General
2020	\$4,200,000	General
2021	\$4,200,000	General
2022	\$4,200,000	General
2023	\$4,200,000	General

8. Fiscal Implications:

Because current employees of the local and regional jails, once trained, will be able to administer the mental health screenings, the fiscal impact of this aspect of the legislation should be minimal. However, in order to assess, within 72 hours of the screening, anyone indicated as potentially having a mental illness, many jails will need to hire a qualified mental health professional or contract for one. It is estimated that the cost of providing for the assessments will be approximately \$4.0 million statewide. The Governor's budget amendment includes that funding for DCJS, along with language authorizing the agency to distribute the funding among jails through a grant process.

To develop a training program and to provide the needed training for employees of local and regional jails who currently do not have a screening process, DCJS will need two additional staff persons. The annual cost of these positions, including necessary travel expenses to deliver the training to all areas of the state, is estimated to be approximately \$200,000.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

Department of Criminal Justice Services
Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services
Board of Corrections
Local and regional jails

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: Similar to HB 1783.