

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB751

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

2. **Patron:** Bell

3. **Committee:** Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. **Title:** Mandated reporters of suspected abuse.

5. **Summary:** Adds practitioners of behavior analysis to the list of individuals required to report suspected adult or child abuse or neglect.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** See Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill adds practitioners of behavior analysis to the list of individuals required to report suspected adult or child abuse or neglect. According to the Department of Social Services (DSS), licensed practitioners of behavior analysis are already mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect and the addition of unlicensed practitioners of behavior analysis is not likely to result in a significant increase in the number of new reports of child abuse and neglect. The inclusion of practitioners of behavior analysis as mandated reporters of adult maltreatment is unlikely to have a significant fiscal impact on local departments of social services (LDSS) because the list of adult protective services (APS) mandated reporters is broad and includes categories such as “any person employed by or contracted with a public or private agency or facility and working with adults in an administrative, supportive or direct care capacity.” Therefore, it is likely that reports from practitioners of behavior analysis are already being made to local departments.

The legislation could result in a minimal fiscal impact if there is a need for the development of additional mandated reporting training materials and resources, additional requests for mandated reporting training, an increase in the number of adult and child abuse neglect reports, or an increase in the number of valid reports requiring a response. However, DSS expects any potential costs to be minimal and can be absorbed within the existing appropriation.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Social Services, local departments of social services

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. Other Comments: None.