

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1480

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

2. **Patron:** Helsel

3. **Committee:** Courts of Justice

4. **Title:** Mental health awareness training; law-enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel.

5. **Summary:** Requires the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to establish and administer a mental health awareness program for training persons in emergency services professions in recognizing potential mental health issues and assisting themselves and each other with mental health issues. The bill requires DBHDS to create and administer a process by which a program not created by DBHDS can be certified as a qualified mental health awareness program. The bill requires law-enforcement officers, emergency medical services personnel, and firefighters other than volunteer firefighters to participate in a mental health awareness program created or certified by DBHDS once every two years.

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

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** Currently, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services receives \$600,000 per year to provide Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) programs across the Commonwealth. Since inception of the program, 555 trainers have been certified to provide MHFA training across the state. Another “train the trainer” session is being held in FY 2017. The number of these trainers also getting their Public Safety certification is steadily rising as well. To date, 27,000 individuals have received MHFA training. These trainings are provided free of charge.

This bill will require DBHDS to utilize staff time to develop or identify a program that meets the requirements of this bill. At the current funding level, DBHDS believes they have the capacity to provide training to those included in this legislation. Because this bill mandates that local law officers and first responders be trained, the costs could be passed on to local agencies.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; Local Law Enforcement and first responders.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: The bill is a companion to SB1064.