

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2018 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number: HB815**

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Levine

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

**4. Title:** Individuals receiving services; right to unmonitored communication and access to 911.

**5. Summary:** Provides that each individual receiving services in a hospital, training center, or other facility or program operated, funded, or licensed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) shall be allowed to send and receive sealed letter mail and make and receive at least one telephone call per week without such mail or call being monitored by the staff and shall be afforded access in emergency situations to a telephone to place 911 emergency service calls.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** None

**8. Fiscal Implications:** Current regulations allow residents of DBHDS facilities access to telephone and mail. In addition, the human rights oversight process allows for an external review by a local human rights committee (LHRC) of behavioral treatment plans or restrictions that include the monitoring of mail or telephone calls. As a result, while the current census of DBHDS facilities exceeds 1,200 individuals, there are only nine phone restrictions and five mail restrictions in place at this time. These restrictions would be nullified by this legislation.

It is possible that sealed mail to facility residents could increase under the new language; however, given that facilities already have resources for the distribution of mail to residents, this should not have a fiscal impact. Residents currently have access to telephones for personal and emergency phone calls and the status of whether calls are monitored by staff should not have a fiscal impact on the operations of the department or facilities.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Community Services Boards, Private Healthcare Providers

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None