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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Papen ORIGINAL DATE 2/3/2020
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Equine Therapy Program SB 67
ANALYST Klundt

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$390.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 67 appropriates \$390 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Health (DOH) for an equine therapy program serving individuals with disabilities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$390 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2021 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH reported, according to the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Int.), equine-assisted therapy is “treatment that incorporates equine activities and/or the equine environment.” The American Hippotherapy Association refers to hippotherapy as, “how occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language pathology professionals use evidence-based practice and clinical reasoning in the purposeful manipulation of equine movement as a therapy tool to engage sensory, neuromotor and cognitive systems to promote functional outcomes.”

Equine Therapy is available through a limited group of providers under the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Programs (Mi Via and Traditional Medicaid Waivers) as part of the agency's day programs. Day programs provide varied services under the definition of Customized Community Supports. Equine Therapy may also be provided through the Family Infant Toddler Program serving children birth through three years who have or at risk of having a developmental disability or delay.

Equine Therapy is not currently available through state-general funded services provided by the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD). DDSD provides an array of services available to children and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families. Funds are available based on legislative appropriations from state general funds. There may be waiting lists for these services due to the limited availability of these funds. SGF services are available to individuals who are not currently served through one of the Medicaid Waiver Programs (Developmental Disabilities Waiver, Mi Via Waiver, Medically Fragile Waiver). The Department of Health does not currently have any contracts to provide Equine Therapy services.

If Equine Therapy services were to be provided by the Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Supports Division, several activities would need to take place including the following:

- Procurement of services including issuing an RFP (Request for Proposals) to identify eligible providers and awarding contract(s);
- Defining eligibility criteria for services;
- Determination of appropriate rates; and
- Development of service standards.

Additional research would be needed for DOH to determine the number of individuals that could be served with the funding allocated through this proposal.

KK/al