

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB12X
Version:	CS
Request Number:	50x
Author:	Rep. Wallace and Rep. Martinez
Date:	5/22/2023
Impact:	Creates the Mental Health Transport Revolving Fund \$ 2,991,573

Research Analysis

The committee substitute to SB 12x creates the Mental Health Transport Revolving Fund and amends the regulations for the transportation of people in need of mental health services by law enforcement officers. The measure allows a sheriff or peace officer to request an assessment by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services at the initial point of contact for a person the officer believes requires treatment. The Department may conduct the assessment via telemedicine using a mobile device belonging to a law enforcement agency or in-person by a licensed mental health professional on a mobile crisis response team or who is employed or contracted with the Department.

The Department or an entity contracted by the Department is responsible for transporting an individual if there is not an appropriate facility within 30 miles of the peace officers headquarters or if the officer has already transported the individual to an appropriate facility for initial assessment. The officer is required to provide transport to the nearest appropriate facility if an individual self-presents at a facility, is placed into protective custody and is in need of an initial assessment or treatment. If the individual self-presents at a facility and is not placed under protective custody the facility is responsible for transportation. Once an individual has been received by the appropriate facility, the Department or an entity contracted by the Department is responsible for any subsequent transportation needs. If a facility director determines that an individual is not medically stable, the Department is required to transport the individual to the nearest hospital immediately.

Prepared By: Keana Swadley

Fiscal Analysis

The measure creates the Mental Health Transport Revolving Fund to transport patients within a 30 mile radius or nearest facility by Department of Mental and Substance Abuse staff or by a peace officer. Current funding level: \$2,991,573.

Prepared By: Stacy Johnson, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.

