



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1420

PRINTERS NO. 1527

PRIME SPONSOR: Thomas

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
General Fund	\$0	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: House Bill 1420, Printer's Number 1527, adds a section to the Human Services Code to require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish a COVID-19 Mental Health Public Awareness Campaign. This legislation is effective immediately.

ANALYSIS: HB 1420 requires DHS to establish a public awareness campaign regarding the programs and services available for first responders, health care workers, other frontline workers, and their families experiencing mental health issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The public awareness campaign, which shall utilize a variety of media, including television, radio, print, and the internet, shall provide information on the link between mental health issues and the COVID-19 pandemic; resources for first responders, health care workers, other front line workers, and their families; any telephone helpline established for first responders and health care workers experiencing mental health issues due to their work during the COVID-19 pandemic; and anxiety-reducing strategies and other methods to manage stress, depression, and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

FISCAL IMPACT: DHS anticipates the public awareness campaign would cost \$1.5 million. The cost of the campaign can be accommodated within the \$46.8 million in supplemental Community Mental Health Services Block Grant funds provided to DHS by the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

PREPARED BY: Nick McClure
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 14, 2021

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.