BILL SUMMARY

1st Session of the 52nd Legislature

Bill No.: HB 1616
Version: Introduced (5664)
Author: Rep. Dan Sullivan
Date: February 23, 2009
Impact: \$495

Bill Summary

Research Analyst: Marcia Goff

The measure requires a law enforcement officer who has taken a person into protective custody due to mental illness or drug or alcohol dependency to take the person to a medical facility for treatment if the person is medically unstable and requires the medical facility or an officer to transport the person to the nearest facility designated by the Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for an initial assessment.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: Mark Newman

HB 1616, as introduced, amends Title 43A related to emergency detention of persons appearing to be mentally ill, alcohol dependent, or drug dependent. This legislation specifies certain procedures for an officer to take when a person is medically unstable, authorizing a physician to detain a person until medically stable, and specifies procedures upon determination of emergency detention subsequent to initial assessment.

Fiscal Analysis

Based on information provided by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS), HB 1616, as introduced, will have minimal fiscal impact related to additional transportation expenses for law enforcement, an expense currently reimbursed by ODMHSAS at the state designated mileage rate. In most cases, the distance between the emergency detention site and a medical facility will be approximately five (5) miles. The current state mileage rate is \$0.55 per mile making the average reimbursement for these trips \$2.75. The annual estimate for trips meeting the criteria specified in this legislation will be 180 trips. The fiscal impact of HB 1616 will be approximately \$495.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

The potential exists for individuals to no longer meet the definition of a "person requiring treatment" once they have achieved medical stability. In those cases, the cause for transport would possibly have passed and law enforcement involvement would no longer be warranted.

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed By:

Janice Buchanan

House Fiscal Director