

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1606
Version:	CS
Request No.:	3888
Author:	Sen. Bullard
Date:	02/27/2020

Committee Substitute (CS)

The CS for SB 1606 directs sheriffs and police officers to use telemedicine, when such tools are available, to assess a person officers reasonably believe require mental health treatment. If it is determined emergency detention can be avoided by the person agreeing to treatment in a less restrictive level of care, officers may transport the person to the nearest facility determined by the licensed mental health professional to best meet the person's treatment needs. The measure also states that responsibility for the person shall be transferred to the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services once the person is presented to a facility for treatment.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor

Fiscal Analysis

FY'21 Impact: \$4,573,388.00

Full Year Impact: \$6,860,082.00

Directs sheriffs and peace officers to use telemedicine, when available and necessary, to have a person assessed by a mental health professional employed/contracted through DMHSAS. If a less restrictive level of treatment than emergency detention is possible, the officer can transport the person to the nearest and best facility, as determined by the health professional, to address their needs. Once a person is at the treatment facility DMHSAS is responsible for any further transportation of the patient. DMHSAS anticipates an annual cost to implement the changes at \$6,860,082.

Prepared by: Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services