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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/18/09

SPONSOR McSorley LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Marriage & Family Therapists in Schools SB 484

ANALYST Aguilar

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	Indeterminate (See Fiscal Implications)	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Office of Educational Accountability (OEA)

Attorney General's Office (AGO)

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 484 provides for the inclusion of Marriage and Family Therapists in the definition of "instructional support provider" within the Public School Code and as part of the list of instructional support providers that the Public Education Department (PED) must license and establish rules for licensure requirements.

The bill makes technical changes to the language in the Public School Code.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No appropriation is indicated in the bill.

The addition of a new classification of instructional support provider may cause schools to incur additional costs as these therapists join school staffs. Depending on the number of permanent FTE the amount could be significant, however if hired on a contract basis, costs could be reduced.

It needs to be clear that these positions are not related services positions as identified in special education definitions and are not eligible for unit funding as a related service provider. If the intent is for these providers to qualify as related services providers under the current funding formula then the fiscal impact will be significant as each related services provider generates more than \$100 thousand and as much as \$128 thousand in annual funding.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

PED notes that Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) are mental health professionals trained in psychotherapy and family systems, and licensed to diagnose and treat mental and emotional disorders within the context of marriage, couples and family systems. They evaluate and treat mental and emotional disorders, other health and behavioral problems, and address a wide array of relationship issues within the context of the family system. A family's patterns of behavior influences the individual and therefore may need to be a part of the treatment plan. MFTs, through individual and family sessions, treat a wide range of serious clinical problems including: depression, children's conduct disorders, adolescent drug abuse, childhood autism, and chronic physical illness in children, anxiety, individual psychological problems, and child-parent problems.

PA/svb