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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 198
SHORT TITLE: Behavioral Health and First Responder Training

SPONSOR: Martinez, A
LAST UPDATE: _____ **ORIGINAL DATE:** 2/2/26 **ANALYST:** Hilla

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

| FY26 | FY27 | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------|
| | \$2,000.0 | Nonrecurring | General fund |

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

| Agency/Program | FY26 | FY27 | FY28 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|----------------|------------------|---------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| DOH | No fiscal impact | \$122.0 | No fiscal impact | \$122.0 | Nonrecurring | General Fund |

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

Department of Health

Department of Public Safety

Agency or Agencies That Were Asked for Analysis but did not Respond

Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill 198

House Bill 198 (HB198) appropriates \$2 million to the Department of Health (DOH) for behavioral health treatment and training for first responders.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which is May 20, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$2 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund. This appropriation is not in the LFC or executive budget recommendations.

DOH anticipates a nonrecurring operating budget impact of \$122 thousand in FY27 to carry out the behavioral health training and services.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH notes that the state faces significant shortage of behavioral health resources, particularly in rural areas. The department notes that first responders are more likely to die by suicide, which is the leading cause of preventable death in first responder populations. Additionally, federal health organizations estimate that 30 percent of first responders develop behavioral health conditions like depression or post-traumatic stress disorder. The Department of Public Safety notes that HB198 could help first responders to better identify and recognize mental health crises, de-escalate volatile encounters, and safely interact with individuals experiencing mental health emergencies.

EH/ct/dw