



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

Bill information:

SB0198 - Revise laws related to behavioral health peer support specialists (Gross, Jen)

Status: As Amended in Senate Committee

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov Impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts | <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Revenue Form Attached |

FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027</u> <u>Difference</u>
Expenditures:				
General Fund	\$12,262	\$17,099	\$17,954	\$18,855
Federal Special Revenue	\$50,130	\$70,250	\$73,763	\$77,463
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Special Revenue	\$50,130	\$70,250	\$73,763	\$77,463
Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	<u>(\$12,262)</u>	<u>(\$17,099)</u>	<u>(\$17,954)</u>	<u>(\$18,855)</u>

Description of fiscal impact: SB 198 will establish certification and credentialing and certification and credentialing requirements for Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialists, and Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist Candidates, allowing rulemaking to specify education, experience, and supervised experience requirements, for credentialed candidates and credentials.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

Department of Public Health and Human Services

1. SB 198 does not have an effective date specified. Per 1-2-201(1), MCA, the proposal will be effective October 1, 2023 if passed.
2. The bill specifies three levels of peer support specialists and adds specific hours of supervision from a mental health professional for credentialed peer support specialists and credentialing candidates; in addition, credentialed peer support specialists and credentialing candidates require additional hours of experience than a certified (only) peer support specialist designation.
3. Although the bill specifies differing levels of experience for peer support specialists, new Section 10 stipulates that upon passage that all currently certified peer support specialists will become credentialed by the board if

they were certified before October 1, 2022 or completed 1,000 hours of supervised work before the effective date of the bill.

4. There are currently 173 active behavioral health certified peer support specialists. It is assumed that this number will increase by 5% each year.
5. For purposes of this fiscal note, certified peer support specialists will continue to receive the current rate of \$14.01 per 15-minutes of peer support service. Further, to account for the experience and supervision under a mental health professional specified in the bill, it is assumed that credentialing candidates will receive 105% of the current rate and credentialed peer support specialists will receive 107% of the current rate, *See Technical Note.
6. Historically, there has been a high turnover of certified behavioral peer support specialists. However, the proposal in new Section 10 provides that almost all certified peer support specialists become credentialed upon passage of the bill. It is assumed that 15% of peer support specialists each year will be new certified (only) peer support specialists, 10% will be credentialing candidates, and 75% will be credentialed peer support specialists.
7. With an effective date of October 1, 2023, FY 2024 impacts are projected at 75% of the full year calculation.
8. As shown in the table below, it is estimated that Medicaid benefit expenditures would increase by \$62,392 in FY 2024, \$87,349 in FY 2025, \$91,717 in FY 2026, and \$96,318 in FY 2027.

Department of Labor & Industry

9. SB 198 will require changes to administrative rules currently in place for Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialists, however, the Department of Labor & Industry will absorb these rulemaking costs in current budget authority.

Rate for Certified Only Peer Support Specialist	\$14.01	\$14.01	\$14.01	\$14.01
Est. Medicaid Expenditures Certified Only Peer Support	\$217,015	\$227,873	\$239,263	\$251,227
(b) SB 198 Credentialing Candidate Peer Support				
Est % of Credentialing Candidate Peer Support Specialists	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Est Number of Credentialing Candidates	18	19	20	21
Est Units of Service	10,327	10,843	11,385	11,955
Current Rate Per 15 Minutes	\$14.01	\$14.01	\$14.01	\$14.01
Rate Differential for Credentialing Candidates	105%	105%	105%	105%
Credentialing Candidate Peer Support Specialist Rate	\$14.71	\$14.71	\$14.71	\$14.71
Est. Medicaid Expenditures Credentialing Candidate Peer Support	\$151,915	\$159,506	\$167,479	\$175,864
(c) SB 198 Credentialed Peer Support				
Est % of Credentialed Peer Support Specialists	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%
Est Number of Credentialed Peer Support Specialists	134	141	148	155
Est Units of Service	77,451	81,323	85,390	89,660
Current Rate Per 15 Minutes	\$14.01	\$14.01	\$14.01	\$14.01
Rate Differential for Credentialed	107%	107%	107%	107%
Credentialed Peer Support Specialist Rate	\$14.99	\$14.99	\$14.99	\$14.99
Est. Medicaid Expenditures Credentialed Peer Support	\$1,161,045	\$1,219,089	\$1,280,056	\$1,344,066
SB 198 Total of Peer Support Services	\$1,529,975	\$1,606,467	\$1,686,798	\$1,771,158
SB 198 Peer Support Expenditure Impact	\$83,190	\$87,349	\$91,717	\$96,318
Fiscal Year Adjustment (Effective date 10/01/2023)	75%	100%	100%	100%
Total SB 198 Peer Support Expenditure Impact	\$62,393	\$87,349	\$91,717	\$96,318

FMAP	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Standard Medicaid - 37.0%				
State Share	36.09%	35.88%	35.88%	35.88%
Federal Share	63.91%	64.12%	64.12%	64.12%
CHIP - 0%				
State Share	25.12%	25.12%	25.12%	25.12%
Federal Share	74.88%	74.88%	74.88%	74.88%
Expansion - 63.0%				
State Share	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%
Federal Share	90.00%	90.00%	90.00%	90.00%
Administration -				
State Share	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Federal Share	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Funding				
State Share	\$ 12,262	\$ 17,099	\$ 17,954	\$ 18,855
Federal Share	\$ 50,130	\$ 70,250	\$ 73,763	\$ 77,463
TOTAL	\$ 62,392	\$ 87,349	\$ 91,717	\$ 96,318

	<u>FY 2024 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>
<u>Fiscal Impact:</u>				
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
Benefits	\$62,392	\$87,349	\$91,717	\$96,318
TOTAL Expenditures	\$62,392	\$87,349	\$91,717	\$96,318
<u>Funding of Expenditures:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$12,262	\$17,099	\$17,954	\$18,855
Federal Special Revenue (03)	\$50,130	\$70,250	\$73,763	\$77,463
TOTAL Funding of Exp.	\$62,392	\$87,349	\$91,717	\$96,318
<u>Revenues:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Special Revenue (03)	\$50,130	\$70,250	\$73,763	\$77,463
TOTAL Revenues	\$50,130	\$70,250	\$73,763	\$77,463
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u>				
General Fund (01)	(\$12,262)	(\$17,099)	(\$17,954)	(\$18,855)
Federal Special Revenue (03)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Technical Notes:

10. Impacts will need to be coordinated with any provider rate increases provided in HB2 or other legislation.
11. In the Guidehouse Montana provider rate study, only one level of behavioral health peer support services was calculated for a benchmark rate. If SB 198 as amended is passed, DPHHS would request that new benchmark rates be developed by Guidehouse for each of the new three levels of behavioral health peer support services. Those new benchmark rates would then be treated as other behavioral health rates in regard to funding and set at the percentage of the benchmark as determined by the legislature.
12. New Section 2 (b) provides for additional requirements for mental health professionals providing supervision to credentialed behavioral peer support specialist. This additional requirement is inconsistent with the rest of the bill and supervision by mental health professionals for credentialing candidates and certified peer support specialists.
13. The bill uses the term “competent” mental health professionals in multiple locations. The term competent is unclear in usage and not defined.
14. SB 198 does not have an effective date specified.

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE

Sponsor's Initials

3/10/23
Date


Budget Director's Initials

3-8-23
Date