



Legislative Council Staff
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Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-0166	Date:	August 9, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Marchman; Will Rep. Lukens; Hartsook	Bill Status:	Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: **AGRICULTURAL & RURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill instructs the Behavioral Health Administration to appoint a liaison to the Department of Agriculture and creates a workgroup and a grant program within the Department of Agriculture. The bill increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2024-25, the bill includes an appropriation of \$207,105 to multiple state agencies.

Fiscal Note Status: The final fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 24-055

		Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures¹	General Fund	up to \$736,527	up to \$725,196
	Centrally Appropriated	\$27,002	\$30,180
	Total Expenditures	up to \$763,528	up to \$755,376
	Total FTE	1.6 FTE	1.8 FTE
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget Impacts	General Fund Reserve	up to \$110,479	up to \$108,779

¹ Of the estimated expenditures in Table 1, \$529,421 in FY 2024-25 and \$527,621 in FY 2025-26, and 0.3 FTE in both years, is for the grant program codified by this bill. In the enacted bill, appropriations for the grant program have not been included by the General Assembly. See State Appropriations section for additional detail.

Summary of Legislation

The bill instructs the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to appoint a liaison to the Department of Agriculture (CDA) and several stakeholders. Among other things, the liaison will coordinate a training for behavioral health providers that serve agricultural industry workers.

The bill creates a workgroup in the CDA. The workgroup will convene by January 1, 2025, and meet once a month until September 1, 2029, at which point the group is subject to a sunset review and repealed. The bill specifies that member who are not receiving compensation from their organization to attend the workgroup may receive compensation from the CDA.

The bill also codifies existing grant programs in the CDA into a single grant program in state law, with some modifications. The grant program awards funding to applicants that primarily serve individuals engaged in agriculture to address the root causes of behavioral health issues. The bill specifies that no more than \$50,000 per year can be granted to any one applicant and makes the program subject to available appropriations.

The bill requires the CDA to contract with a state-wide organization to host an in-person annual summit for organizations seeking to promote behavioral health in agricultural communities.

Finally, CDA must annually report to the General Assembly on these efforts.

Background and Assumptions

The CDA currently administers the Rural Mental Health Initiative which has implemented two grant programs to support rural and agricultural mental and behavioral health. These existing grant programs have been supported by a combination of federal and state funding from various sources. Collectively, these grants have awarded about \$700,000 in grants to nine grantees since 2020. In the most recent round of grants, the CDA received applications for funding totaling \$3.4 million from 54 applicants. In its [FY 2024-25 R-08](#) Budget Request, the CDA requested \$550,020 General Fund and 0.3 FTE to continue funding the program. Funding for this request was not included in the FY 2024-25 Long Bill.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the BHA by \$162,000 in FY 2024-25 and \$130,000 in FY 2025-26, paid from the General Fund. The bill also increases state expenditures in the CDA by up to \$602,000 in FY 2024-25 and up to \$626,000 in FY 2025-26, paid from the General Fund. The CDA amount includes grant program funding, which is subject to available appropriations. Expenditures are shown in Table 2 and detailed below.

**Table 2
Expenditures Under SB 24-055**

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Behavioral Health Administration		
Personal Services	\$69,294	\$76,994
Operating Expenses	\$1,152	\$1,280
Capital Outlay Costs	\$6,670	-
Training Program	\$68,000	\$33,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$16,677	\$18,530
FTE – Personal Services	0.9 FTE	1.0 FTE
Dept. Subtotal	\$161,793	\$129,803
Department of Agriculture		
Personal Services	\$49,440	\$54,912
Operating Expenses	\$896	\$1,024
Capital Outlay Costs	\$6,670	-
Workgroup Facilitation Costs	\$7,690	\$15,380
Workgroup Member Compensation	\$8,492	\$16,984
Grants ²	up to \$518,222	up to \$518,222
Summit Contract	-	\$7,400
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$10,325	\$11,651
FTE – Personal Services	0.7 FTE	0.8 FTE
Dept. Subtotal	up to \$601,735	up to \$625,573
Total Costs	up to \$763,528	up to \$755,376
Total FTE	1.6 FTE	1.8 FTE

¹ Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

² Appropriations for grants were not included in the enacted version of this bill.

Behavioral Health Administration. Starting in FY 2024-25, costs in the BHA will increase to hire staff and develop a training course, as described below.

- **Staff.** The BHA will require 1.0 FTE to serve as the liaison, as required by the bill. Liaison costs include personal services, operating expenses, and capital outlay costs and assume a September 1 start date.

- **Training curriculum.** The BHA will require \$68,000 in FY 2024-25 and \$33,000 annually thereafter to develop, update, and deliver the training program for behavioral health providers. This cost assumes there will be 500 users at \$36 per license, that development of a training course will take 167 hours at a contract rate of \$300 per hour. In out years, costs include \$15,000 for course maintenance and the 500 licenses.

Department of Agriculture. The CDA requires funds and 0.8 FTE to support the workgroup, implement the grant program, and contract with an organization to host the summit. The impacts are discussed below.

- **Staff.** 0.5 FTE will provide logistical support to workgroup, which must convene monthly. This support will include ensuring that the members are compensated by the CDA in accordance with the bill and that the necessary data is collected for the CDA to produce the annual report. An additional 0.3 FTE is required starting in FY 2024-25, to administer the grant program that is codified under the bill. This work includes managing the application process, managing the resulting contracts, and producing the annual report. Costs in FY 2023-24 assume a September 1 start date.
- **Workgroup.** The CDA requires funds to host the workgroup and compensate its members. It is assumed that 1/3 of all meetings will be in-person and that the workgroup will meet 6 times in FY 2024-25 and 12 times annually thereafter. Administrative and support costs for the workgroup are estimated to be \$1,300 per meeting, including translation services, and venue rental and catering services for in-person meetings. Workgroup member compensation is estimated at \$1,400 per meeting, assuming that six members will be eligible for compensation and will receive \$236 per meeting, on average.
- **Grants.** The CDA requires about \$518,000 to issue grants under the consolidated and codified grant program. This assumes around 10 grantees receiving up to \$50,000 annually and \$18,000 in administration costs. Per the bill, this program is subject to available appropriations which is at the discretion of the General Assembly
- **Summit contract.** The CDS will contract with an organization to host the annual summit beginning in FY 2025-26 for \$7,400 annually. This is estimated to cover a venue, catering, and supplies for up to 150 attendees.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are shown in Table 2.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 6, 2024, and it took effect on August 7, 2024.

State Appropriations

For FY 2024-25, the bill includes General Fund appropriations of \$207,155 including:

- \$145,166 to the Behavioral Health Administration, and 0.9 FTE; and
- \$61,989 to the Department of Agriculture, and 0.5 FTE.

Tables 1 and 2 of the fiscal note show the cost of continuing the grant program codified by the bill. However, since the grant program is subject to available appropriations, it is at the discretion of the General Assembly to provide this funding, either through this bill or through the annual budget process in the future. The included appropriation to CDA referenced above does not include funding for the grant program.

If the General Assembly chooses to fund the grant program as outlined in the fiscal note, the CDA requires an additional appropriation of \$529,421 from the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, and 0.3 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture
Human Services

Behavioral Health Administration

Health Care Policy and Financing

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).