



Fiscal Note
Legislative Council Staff
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SB 25-238: REPEAL SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING ACT

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Amabile; Kirkmeyer
Rep. Sirota; Taggart

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Fiscal note status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, which was recommended by the Joint Budget Committee as part of the FY 2025-26 Long Bill budget package.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill repeals the School Mental Health Screening Act.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- State Expenditures

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill requires and includes a reduction in appropriations of \$2.9 million from the Behavioral Health Administration.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact ¹	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures (General Fund)	-\$2,856,824	-\$2,834,813
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	-3.0 FTE	-3.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

[House Bill 23-1003](#) created a mental health screening program available to public schools serving grades 6 through 12, administered by the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), to screen students into programs like the “I Matter” program. I Matter is also administered by the BHA and provides up to six free therapy sessions per year for youth in Colorado.

The bill repeals the screening program on the bill’s effective date.

Background

The [fiscal note for HB 23-1003](#) estimated that the bill would result in an increase in expenditures of about \$2.9 million to conduct the screening and to refer them to the I Matter program.

[Senate Bill 24-001](#), continued the I Matter program and the [fiscal note for SB 24-001](#) estimated that extending the program would costs \$11.1 million (\$6.0 million in continuation funding and \$5.1 million to provide an additional 13,738 students that might be screened into the program). Instead, the General Assembly appropriated \$5.0 million to the I Matter program for FY 2024-25, and the Joint Budget Committee, in its Long Bill figure setting for FY 2025-26, has continued funding for iMatter at this lower level.

State Expenditures

By repealing the school-based screening, the bill reduces state expenditures by \$2.9 million annually as shown in Table 2. Eliminating the screening program may also decrease costs and participation in the I Matter program.

Table 2
State Expenditures

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
Personal Services	-\$234,917	-\$234,917
Operating Expenses	-\$4,050	-\$4,050
Capital Outlay Costs	-\$22,011	\$0
Qualified Provider Contract	-\$2,011,706	-\$2,011,706
Data Vendor Contract	-\$525,000	-\$525,000
All Employee Insurance	-\$38,342	-\$38,342
Supplemental PERA	-\$20,798	-\$20,798
Total Cost	-\$2,856,824	-\$2,834,813
Total FTE	-3.0 FTE	-3.0 FTE

School Screenings

Starting in FY 2025-26, the bill reduces expenditures in the BHA administration by \$2.9 million and 3.0 FTE to no longer provide school based screening. This cost savings is based on current appropriations for the program.

Reduction in Referrals to the I Matter Program

Removing the school-based screening program is also expected to reduce the number of referrals to the I Matter program. This may lower costs for the I Matter program, or alternately, reduce the risk of program waitlist or allow youths participating in the program to have additional therapy sessions within the program's current appropriation.

Based on prior decisions by the General Assembly to not appropriate additional money for the I Matter program based on the creation of the school-based screening program, it is assumed that no change to appropriations to the BHA for the I Matter program is required when repealing the screening program, and that the I Matter program will use available appropriations set by the General Assembly to maximize participation and the number of sessions for youths.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

For FY 2025-26, the bill requires and includes a reduction in General Fund appropriations of \$2,856,824 from the Behavioral Health Administration, and 3.0 FTE

State and Local Government Contacts

Behavioral Health Administration

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](#).