

JLBC Fiscal Note

BILL # HB 2944

TITLE: impaired persons; court-ordered stabilization

SPONSOR: Gress

PREPARED BY: Brian Belakovsky

STATUS: As Introduced

Description

The bill would create a process for court-order stabilization for persons impaired with intoxication, withdrawal, or substance-induced symptoms. The bill would also prohibit these persons from being billed for the services received under court-ordered treatment.

Estimated Impact

We estimate that the bill would increase Arizona Healthcare Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) costs by \$7.2 million General Fund (\$14.4 million Total Funds) on an annual basis.

These costs depend on the extent to which court-ordered stabilization would result in a higher use of treatment services compared with current law. We cannot determine in advance how often the Court would be petitioned to order treatment under the new procedures authorized under the bill, or how court-ordered stabilization may affect utilization of other AHCCCS service categories.

Our estimates are based on a 2025 analysis by AHCCCS. We have asked AHCCCS for an updated estimate of the bill's fiscal impact, but we have not yet received a response.

Analysis

Our estimated impact is based on the following assumptions and data sources:

- 1) AHCCCS currently provides crisis services for all individuals regardless of Medicaid eligibility, including up to 24 hours of care for members and up to 72 hours of care for non-Medicaid members.
- 2) The bill would allow superior courts to order a stabilization period (not to exceed 5 days) for impaired persons. The bill would require the cost of the court proceedings and services provided be charged to AHCCCS, or another third-party payor if available.
- 3) AHCCCS actuaries estimated a \$7.2 million General Fund and \$14.4 million Total Funds cost based on 2024 crisis stabilization data and an average per diem cost of \$992.62 for treatment. This amount includes \$3.3 million for non-Medicaid services. In 2024, crisis stabilization events were split approximately 77% for Medicaid members, and 23% for non-Medicaid recipients.

2/18/26