



January 4, 2022

Honorable Sandra Scott
State Representative
611-D Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill (LC 41 3199)

Dear Representative Scott:

This bill would establish two new functions within the Department of Public Health. A new Office of BIPOC Health and Health Disparities would be responsible for a variety of activities, including advocating for the improvement of health care for black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and identifying programs, services, and resources related to BIPOC health care, and distributing grant funds. A separate Cultural and Linguistic Health Care Professional Competency Program would provide cultural and linguistic training for certain health care professionals. It would also require implicit bias training for certain health care professionals involved in the perinatal care of patients. The bill has no effective date.

As detailed below, estimated costs of the bill are \$3.3 million in year one, with annual costs of \$2.5 million in subsequent years.

Office of BIPOC Health and Health Disparities

The Office of BIPOC Health and Health Disparities costs are \$2.9 million in year one and \$2.1 in year two (**Table 1**). Significant portions of the costs are related to contracts and grants, both of which are difficult to estimate. A description of each category is below.

Table 1: Office of BIPOC Health and Health Disparities Cost

Cost Category	Year 1	Year 2
Personnel	\$996,172	\$996,172
Contracts	\$750,000	--
Information Technology	\$24,955	\$2,700
Grants	<u>\$1,125,000</u>	<u>\$1,125,000</u>
Total	\$2,896,127	\$2,123,872

Note: The bill notes that grants are contingent on funding; therefore, grant funds are not required for operation of the office.

- *Personnel:* DPH estimated the need for a director, communications and community outreach specialist, attorney, two health policy analysts, epidemiologist, program evaluator, budget analyst, and revenue accountant.
- *Contracts:* The initial contracts budget is based on funding provided in FY 2020 for a similar bill. Because of the expected extensive initial and ongoing workload associated

with the strategic plan, statewide plan, clearinghouse and resource library, and other research components mentioned throughout the legislation. A finalized amount for this category is contingent on a signed contract and is estimated for the purpose of this fiscal note.

- *Information Technology*: A large portion of the initial IT budget goes towards purchasing computers and website design and development for the office.
- *Grants*: The final component of the funding requested for this bill includes five grants of \$225,000 to community-based organizations and historically black colleges and universities. These grants would support research and evaluation projects associated with eliminating racial and ethnic healthcare disparities in the state. The amount and quantity of these grants are largely conditional based on funding opportunities.

Cultural and Linguistic Health Care Professional Competency Program

Costs for the Cultural and Linguistic Health Care Professional Competency Program can be seen in **Table 2**. At this time, the state does not have an accurate estimate for what enrollment numbers would be for the program. However, there are 71 facilities that meet the definition articulated in O.C.G.A § 31-2A-51 and cited on lines 110-111 of the proposed legislation. Additional military and stand-alone birthing centers would currently have certificates of need in place with the Department of Community Health which would be met by this program.

Table 2: Cultural and Linguistic Health Care Professional Competency Program Cost

Cost Category	Year 1	Year 2
Personnel	\$222,349	\$222,349
Contracts	\$75,000	--
Information Technology	<u>\$128,990</u>	<u>\$90,600</u>
Total	\$426,339	\$312,949

- *Personnel*: The program will have a manager and a program evaluator.
- *Contracts*: A one-year contract will be needed for curriculum development.
- *Information Technology*: IT funding will be primarily devoted to paying annual license hosting, support, and initial content creation. These costs also include initial IT purchases such as laptop computers and cellular phones.

Respectfully,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor



Kelly Farr, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/KF/ch