## Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2024 Regular Session

**Part I: Measure Information** 

Bill Request #: 2129			
Bill #: HB 617			
Document ID #: 5970			
Bill Title: AN ACT relating to behavioral health services.			
Sponsor: Representative Kimberly Poore Moser			
Unit of Government: X City		•	X Urban-County Unified Local
X Cha	arter County X	Consolidated Local	X Government
Office(s) Impacted: Regional	l community servic	es programs.	
Requirement: X Mandator	ry Optional		
Effect on Powers & Duties: Modified	es Existing X	Adds New Eli	minates Existing

## Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Relating to Local Government

HB 617 **Section 1** would create a new section of KRS Chapter 210 to establish the Kentucky Youth Mobile Crisis Response Program to be administered by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services in collaboration with regional community services programs. The program would establish mobile crisis response teams consisting of a mental health professional and a qualified crisis responder to provide behavioral health emergency services for youth experiencing substance abuse, mental health, or suicidal crisis. The teams would be dispatched through the national 9-8-8 suicide and crisis hotline. The teams would provide services regardless of a youth's age, ability to pay, location or level of clinical services needed.

**Section 4** would provide all health benefit plans that cover mental health or substance abuse would be required to cover behavioral health emergency services by a mobile crisis team to a youth whether in- or out-of-network and without prior authorization. Cost sharing for out-of-network services would not exceed the cost sharing amount imposed for in-network services.

**Section 8** would amend KRS 18A.225 (effective January 1, 2025) to require the Kentucky Employees Health Plan and any fully insured health benefit plan or self-insured plan issued or renewed to public employees comply with Section 4.

**HB 617** as proposed would have no fiscal impact on cities. Mental health services are already required to be covered by all health plans that are compliant with the Affordable Care Act, including the Kentucky Employees Health Plan (KEHP).

Currently 157 county and city governmental entities participate in KEHP. Youth mental health services are covered under the state children's health plan, KCHIP, or will be covered under their guardian's health plans. The uninsured would be covered using state funds. As a result, the proposed legislation will have no impact on cities.

Information for this mandate statement was sought from the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo). If information is received from KACo this mandate statement may be amended.

Data Source(s): Kentucky League of Cities; LRC Staff; Personnel Cabinet

**Preparer:** Mary Stephens (BL) **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 2/27/24