



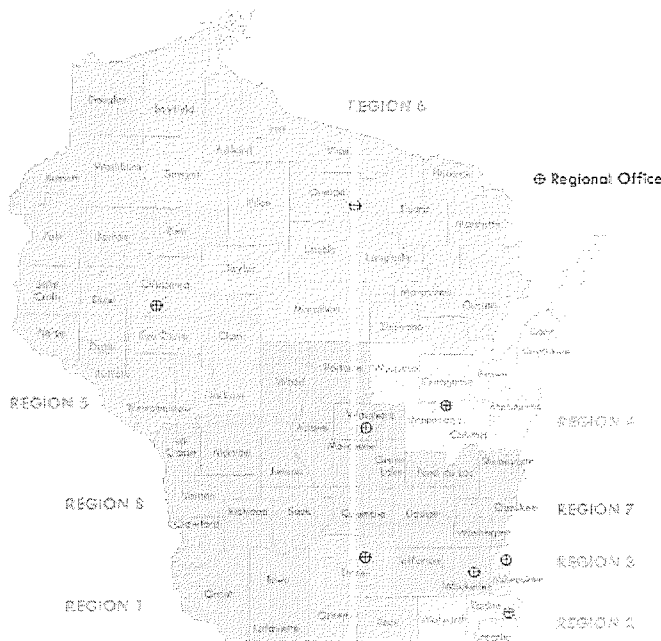
ROBERT BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Thursday, January 23, 2020

Thank you for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 593 and allowing me to testify in favor of this legislation.

Currently, the Division of Community Corrections uses telehealth to provide mental health treatment to offenders under community supervision within Region 5. Senate Bill 593 directs DOC to expand telehealth for mental health treatment to Regions 4, 6, and 8. Based on conversations with DOC, these regions were found to be the most in need of expanded telehealth services. This bill does not use GPR to fund the telehealth expansion and instead places the responsibility on DOC to fund these programs with internal sources.



Telehealth is especially beneficial in rural areas where there are fewer health care professionals available than their urban counterparts. Telehealth will assist offenders, by reducing travel time to medical appointments, while still providing them with necessary treatment.

Earlier this week, Senate Bill 593's Assembly companion passed in the Assembly on a voice vote.

Thank you for your time and attention and I ask that you support this legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions.



Alberta Darling
Wisconsin State Senator
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senate Bill 593
Thursday, January 23, 2020

Thank you, Chairman Testin and committee members for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 593. The legislation before you today will help connect mental health professionals to individuals on community supervision in need of services.

In recent years there has been a well-documented shortage of mental health professionals. This lack of trained service providers has touched every corner of our state. One way the industry has tried to adapt to the shortage is by offering mental health services via telehealth. By offering mental health services through telehealth, we reduce barriers to accessing mental health services particularly for those in rural communities

Currently the Division of Community Corrections, within the Department of Corrections, uses telehealth to provide mental health treatment to offenders under community supervision. Unfortunately, the scope is limited to DOC Region 5 which encompasses much of the northwestern part of the state.

SB 593 will expand the regions offering telehealth mental health services to those on community supervision within regions 4, 6, and 8. Through conversations with DOC, these regions were found to be the most in need of the expanded services. Providing treatment to these individuals will better equip them with the skills needed to reintegrate back into their communities. Regions 4 and 6 cover most of the north and northeast portions of our state, while region 8 spans southeastern Wisconsin.

I would like to thank Representatives Brooks for his leadership on this issue. Thank you committee members for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 593, and I hope I can count on your support.

Fiscal Estimate - 2019 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 19-4719/1	Introduction Number SB-593
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Description
 expanding telehealth mental health treatment to offenders under community supervision

Fiscal Effect

State:

<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations		

Local:

<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate		
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue	5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	

Fund Sources Affected	Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations
<input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS	

Agency/Prepared By DOC/ Emily Lindsey (608) 240-5413	Authorized Signature Paulina De Haan (608) 240-5056	Date 12/16/2019
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOC 12/16/2019

LRB Number 19-4719/1	Introduction Number SB-593	Estimate Type Original
Description expanding telehealth mental health treatment to offenders under community supervision		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires the Department of Corrections to expand telehealth mental health treatment to offenders under community supervision in division of community corrections regions 4, 6, and 8.

Approximately 44 telehealth units would be required to provide mental health treatment via telehealth to Regions 4, 6, and 8. An individual telehealth unit for mental health treatment is estimated to cost \$2,600, each unit has a five year lifecycle. Implementing the expansion as directed by the bill would cost \$111,800 in the first year. The Department could absorb these costs with current resources, no additional funding would be required.

The Department has no information to determine the local fiscal effect.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications