

**Behavioral Health Executive Council
Summary of Budget Recommendations - Senate**

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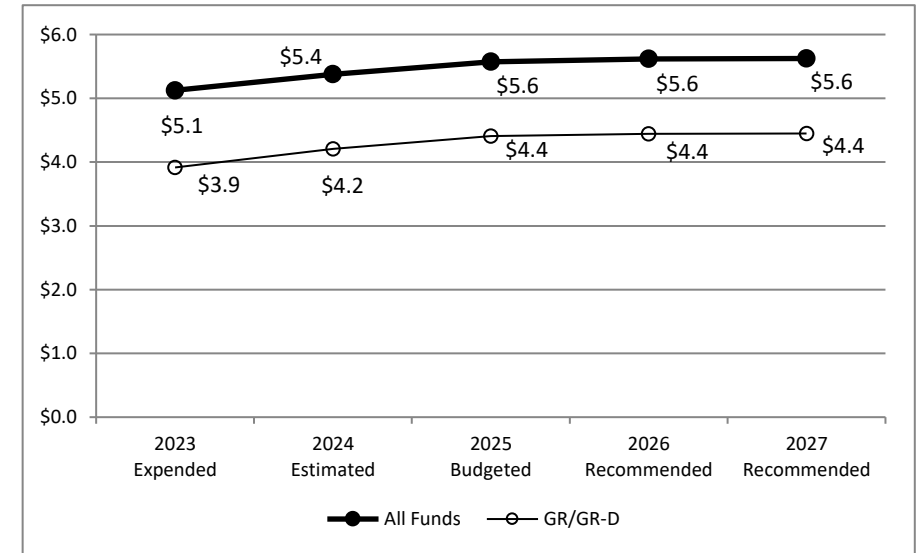
Darrel Spinks, Executive Director

David Petit, LBB Analyst

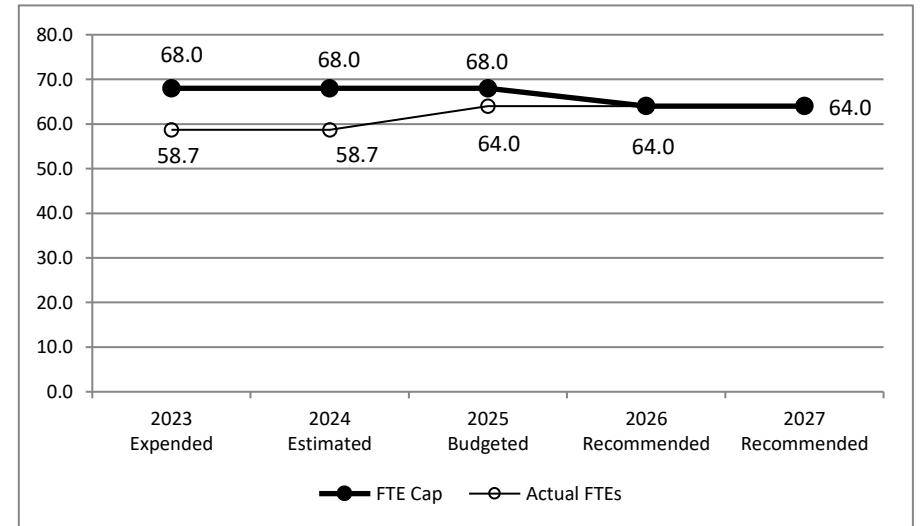
Method of Financing	2024-25 Base	2026-27 Recommended	Biennial Change (\$)	Biennial Change (%)
General Revenue Funds	\$8,613,286	\$8,891,301	\$278,015	3.2%
GR Dedicated Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
<i>Total GR-Related Funds</i>	<i>\$8,613,286</i>	<i>\$8,891,301</i>	<i>\$278,015</i>	<i>3.2%</i>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Other	\$2,337,000	\$2,352,000	\$15,000	0.6%
All Funds	\$10,950,286	\$11,243,301	\$293,015	2.7%

	FY 2025 Budgeted	FY 2027 Recommended	Biennial Change	Percent Change
FTEs	64.0	64.0	0.0	0.0%

Historical Funding Levels (Millions)



Historical Full-Time-Equivalent Employees (FTEs)



The bill pattern for this agency (2026-27 Recommended) represents an estimated 100.0% of the agency's estimated total available funds for the 2026-27 biennium.

Behavioral Health Executive Council
Summary of Funding Changes and Recommendations - Senate

	Funding Changes and Recommendations for the 2026-27 Biennium compared to the 2024-25 Base Spending Level	General Revenue	GR-Dedicated	Federal Funds	Other Funds	All Funds	Strategy in Appendix A
<i>SIGNIFICANT Funding Changes and Recommendations (each issue is explained in Section 3 and additional details are provided in Appendix A):</i>							
A)	Transfer 4.0 FTEs and \$1,207,724 in General Revenue from Strategy A.1.1, Licensing, and B.1.1, Enforcement to C.1.1, Indirect Administration, to more accurately reflect Indirect Administration costs	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	A.1.1, B.1.1, C.1.1
<i>OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations (these issues are not addressed in Section 3 but details are provided in Appendix A):</i>							
B)	Increase in funding to biennialize the statewide salary adjustments that were included in the 2024-25 appropriations	\$190,316	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$190,316	A.1.1, B.1.1
C)	Increase in funding to cover agency's share of cost increases at the Health Professions Council	\$87,699	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$87,699	A.1.1, B.1.1
D)	Increase in Appropriated Receipts as a result of higher revenue collection from the jurisprudence exam due to the growth of the licensee population	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$15,000	\$15,000	A.1.1
TOTAL SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations		\$278,015	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$15,000	\$293,015	As Listed
<i>SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Increases</i>		\$278,015	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$15,000	\$293,015	As Listed
<i>SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Decreases</i>		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	As Listed

**Behavioral Health Executive Council
Selected Fiscal and Policy Issues - Senate**

1. **Texas Psychology Licensing Exam.** Texas law (Occupations Code, Section 501.256) requires psychology license applicants to pass an exam designated by BHEC. Texas and all other states currently rely on a national exam owned by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB), and as such, no alternative test exists. ASPPB announced an intention to require all states to adopt a second, additional skill-based exam in 2026 in order to continue using the existing knowledge-based national exam. BHEC believes the additional exam would unduly burden applicants and create unnecessary barriers to entry in the mental health industry without adding meaningful regulatory benefit. ASPPB put the plan to require a skills-based exam on hold after getting pushback from Texas and other states. However, BHEC still has concerns, as ASPPB has now stated an intention to reimagine the existing exam and include skills-based questions on it, essentially combining the two tests. The skills-based exam already exists, though it has been optional for states to adopt, and pass rates for the exam in states that have adopted it are low compared to the knowledge-based exam, increasing BHEC's concern that the second exam would represent a new and significant barrier to entry.

Due to these circumstances, BHEC is requesting \$125,000 in General Revenue in fiscal year 2026, with unexpended balance authority within the biennium, to contract with a test development vendor to complete the initial design phase of a Texas-owned psychology licensing exam that could be subsequently developed and administered as an alternative to the national exam if necessary.

2. **Indirect Administration Strategy Funding.** Recommendations reallocate \$1.2 million and 4.0 FTEs from Strategies A.1.1, Licensing, and B.1.1, Enforcement, to Strategy C.1.1, Indirect Administration, to more accurately reflect the agency's Indirect Administration costs. The agency's base request included less than \$122,000 in General Revenue and no FTEs in the Indirect Administration strategy. This recommendation increases the Indirect Administration appropriation by an amount equal to the salaries and other costs associated with the agency's: Executive Director; Deputy Executive Director; Chief Financial Officer; and General Counsel. See Appendix A for a breakdown of the amount of funding reallocated from each strategy.

Recommendations do not include the agency's request to reverse this change.

**Behavioral Health Executive Council
Items Not Included in Recommendations - Senate**

		2026-27 Biennial Total			Information Technology Involved?	Contracting Involved?	Estimated Continued Cost 2028-29
		GR & GR-D	All Funds	FTEs			
Agency Exceptional Items Not Included (in agency priority order)							
1)	Request for General Revenue funding in fiscal year 2026, with unexpended balance authority within the biennium, to complete the initial design phase of a new, Texas-owned psychology licensing examination	\$125,000	\$125,000	0.0	No	Yes	\$0
2)	Request for General Revenue funding to fill six existing vacant staff positions for which the agency does not have sufficient resources - two attorneys, two senior licensing specialists, one administrative assistant, and one ombudsman	\$836,360	\$836,360	0.0	No	No	\$836,360
3)	Request for General Revenue funding to subscribe to the National Practitioners Data Bank continuous query feature, to address a recent finding by the State Auditor's Office	\$400,000	\$400,000	0.0	No	Yes	\$430,500
4)	Request to relocate 4.0 FTEs and an amount of General Revenue equal to their salaries and other related costs totaling \$1,207,724 from Strategy C.1.1, Indirect Administration, to other strategies. 2.0 FTEs and \$615,938 in General Revenue would be relocated to Strategy A.1.1, Licensure, and 2.0 FTEs and \$591,786 would be relocated to Strategy B.1.1, Enforcement	\$0	\$0	0.0	No	No	\$0
TOTAL Items Not Included in Recommendations		\$1,361,360	\$1,361,360	-			\$1,266,860

**Behavioral Health Executive Council
Appendices - Senate**

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* Appendix is not included - no significant information to report

**Behavioral Health Executive Council
Funding Changes and Recommendations by Strategy - Senate -- ALL FUNDS**

Strategy/Goal	2024-25 Base	2026-27 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change	Comments
LICENSING A.1.1	\$6,166,987	\$5,662,424	(\$504,563)	(8.2%)	Recommendations include changes to General Revenue and Appropriated Receipts appropriations as follows: a) Increase of \$148,077 to biennialize the statewide salary adjustments included in the 2024-25 appropriations. b) Increase of \$43,850 to cover the agency's share of cost increases at the Health Professions Council, of which BHEC is a member agency. c) Increase of \$27,500 in travel expenses as the agency conducts more meetings in person. d) Increase of \$15,000 in Appropriated Receipts related to the jurisprudence exam. e) Increase of \$2,864 for higher data center costs. f) Increase of \$360 for reserved parking spots in the George H.W. Bush State Office Building garage. g) Decrease of \$615,938 associated with moving 2.0 FTEs and their salaries to Strategy C.1.1, Indirect Administration to more accurately reflect Indirect Administration costs. h) Decrease of \$62,588 that paid for one time merit bonuses, longevity pay, and lump sum termination payments. i) Decrease of \$35,978 in amounts budgeted for miscellaneous operating expenses. j) Decrease of \$2,720 in amounts budgeted for consumables.
TEXAS.GOV A.1.2	\$420,700	\$420,700	\$0	0.0%	
Total, Goal A, LICENSURE	\$6,587,687	\$6,083,124	(\$504,563)	(7.7%)	

**Behavioral Health Executive Council
Funding Changes and Recommendations by Strategy - Senate -- ALL FUNDS**

Strategy/Goal	2024-25 Base	2026-27 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change	Comments
ENFORCEMENT B.1.1	\$4,265,619	\$3,830,483	(\$435,136)	(10.2%)	Recommendations include changes to General Revenue appropriations as follows: a) Increase of \$128,185 to biennialize the statewide salary adjustments included in the 2024-25 appropriations. b) Increase of \$43,849 to cover the agency's share of cost increases at the Health Professions Council, of which BHEC is a member agency. c) Increase of \$81,112 in miscellaneous operating expenses. d) Increase of \$27,500 in travel expenses as the agency conducts more meetings in person. e) Increase of \$3,038 for higher data center costs. f) Increase of \$360 for reserved parking spots in the George H.W. Bush State Office Building garage. g) Increase of \$200 for Health Professions Council cost increases for the toll free complaint line. h) Decrease of \$591,786 associated with moving 2.0 FTEs and their salaries to Strategy C.1.1, Indirect Administration to more accurately reflect Indirect Administration costs. i) Decrease of \$124,876 that paid for one time merit bonuses, longevity pay, and lump sum termination payments. j) Decrease of \$2,718 in amounts budgeted for consumables.
Total, Goal B, ENFORCEMENT	\$4,265,619	\$3,830,483	(\$435,136)	(10.2%)	
INDIRECT ADMINISTRATION C.1.1	\$96,980	\$1,329,694	\$1,232,714	1,271.1%	Increase of \$1,207,724 in General Revenue associated with moving 4.0 FTEs and their salaries to Indirect Administration from the Licensing and Enforcement strategies to more accurately reflect Indirect Administration costs.
Total, Goal C, INDIRECT ADMINISTRATION	\$96,980	\$1,329,694	\$1,232,714	1,271.1%	
Grand Total, All Strategies	\$10,950,286	\$11,243,301	\$293,015	2.7%	

**Behavioral Health Executive Council
FTE Highlights - Senate**

Full-Time-Equivalent Positions	Expended 2023	Estimated 2024	Budgeted 2025	Recommended 2026	Recommended 2027
Cap	68.0	68.0	68.0	64.0	64.0
Actual/Budgeted	58.7	58.7	64.0	NA	NA

Schedule of Exempt Positions (Cap)

None