

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2026 General Assembly Session**  
**State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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**PUBLISHED: 1/21/2026 2:08 PM**

**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB976

**Patron:** Price

**Bill Title:** Transportation of person in the temporary detention process.

**Bill Summary:** Provides that an alternative transportation provider shall be deemed to be able to provide transportation of a person in the temporary detention process in a safe manner if the alternative transportation provider is (i) an employee of, or the person providing services pursuant to a contract with, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services or (ii) an employee of a private or state hospital within the confines of the Commonwealth.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** No. **Items Impacted:** No.

**Explanation:** This legislation may increase the use of an existing contract for alternative transportation and custody services funded at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

**Fiscal Summary:** The funds provided for this contract are limited by the appropriation. No additional funding is required. Once contract funds are expended, no further services can be provided.

**Fiscal Analysis:** Chapter 725, 2025 Acts of Assembly includes \$18.7 million in FY 2026 for the purpose of providing alternative transportation and custody for those individuals who are under emergency custody or temporary detention orders. This funding is being used to provide services to two of the five regions (regions 1 and 3. The use of alternative transportation and custody is limited to situations where a provider is determined to be available, able, and willing to take custody of an individual, at the discretion of a magistrate. This legislation would define "able" as an employee of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) or a provider contracted by the department to provide this service.

The current alternative transportation contract has been historically underutilized, with \$9.9 million of the FY 2025 appropriation unexpended for this service, although DBHDS anticipates additional funds will be expended in FY 2026. The removal of magisterial discretion to determine "able" may increase utilization of the contract, however, because the law still requires a provider to be "available", there is no requirement to provide additional funding. This legislation will not expand the program or the number of regions to be served unless additional funding is provided in the appropriation act.

**Other:** This bill contains similar provisions to SB395.