



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

**Bill:** S.B. 16 of the 132nd G.A.

**Status:** As Introduced

**Sponsor:** Sen. Tavares

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Subject:** Cultural competency instruction for certain health care professionals

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### State Fiscal Highlights

- Potential minimal increase in administrative costs to adopt rules, approve courses, and ensure licensees complete education requirements for the following boards: the State Dental Board, the Board of Nursing, the State Board of Optometry, the State Board of Pharmacy, the State Medical Board, the State Board of Psychology, and the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.

### Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill replaces newly enacted law regarding cultural competency education for certain health professions. S.B. 332 of the 131st General Assembly, which becomes effective on April 6, 2017, requires the State Dental Board, the Board of Nursing, the State Board of Pharmacy, the State Medical Board, the State Board of Psychology, and the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board to consider the problems of race and gender-based disparities in health care treatment decisions in consultation with the Commission on Minority Health and one or more organizations that review the educational material offered to individuals preparing for or pursuing the professions regulated by the boards. In light of this consideration, the boards are to provide their licensees with a list of educational opportunities that address cultural competency in health care treatment and work to fill any insufficiencies in these educational opportunities.

Instead, the bill requires a similar consideration and consultation<sup>1</sup> to be used by the boards listed above plus the State Board of Optometry to develop rules establishing hours of instruction or continuing education in cultural competency to be required to receive or renew licenses for dentists, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, optometrists, pharmacists, physicians, psychologists, independent social workers, social workers, and social work assistants. The bill also requires the rules to include criteria for granting waivers of the new education requirements. In addition, these boards are

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<sup>1</sup> The bill does not specifically mention the Commission on Minority Health as one of the organizations that must be consulted by the boards.

required to approve one or more continuing education courses that address cultural competency.

The administrative costs of the boards are likely somewhat higher under the bill than under the requirements of S.B. 332 that the bill is replacing. These additional costs will arise from rule promulgation, course approval, and for ensuring that licensees meet the requirements. These additional costs, however, are not expected to be more than minimal. Costs also are minimal for the State Board of Optometry, even though the requirements of the bill are all new for the Board, since it was not impacted by the requirements of S.B. 332.

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