



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 541 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Passed by the House

Sponsor: Reps. Patterson and
LaTourette

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Authorizes out-of-state health professionals to provide volunteer health services during charitable events

State Fiscal Highlights

- Impacted occupational licensing boards could experience an increase in costs to conduct any investigations and take disciplinary action against an out-of-state practitioner for actions taken during a charitable event.
- The State Medical Board may realize a negligible loss in special activity certificate revenue if the number of physicians applying for such a certificate is reduced as a result of the bill. There would also be a corresponding negligible decrease in administrative costs for issuing fewer certificates.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill authorizes a health care professional who is licensed in good standing in another state to practice as a volunteer without remuneration in Ohio during a charitable event that lasts not more than seven days. The bill does not require the professional to apply for this authority or submit documentation to a relevant licensing board before providing health services at the event. The bill applies to physicians, nurses, physician assistants, chiropractors, dentists, hygienists, optometrists, and dispensing opticians.

The bill provides that the relevant Ohio licensing board may take disciplinary action against an out-of-state practitioner for actions taken during a charitable event. In the case of a physician and a physician assistant, discipline may include the imposition of a civil penalty up to \$20,000. The Ohio State Medical Board, the Board of Nursing, the State Chiropractic Board, the State Dental Board, and the State Vision Professionals Board could experience an increase in costs to conduct any necessary investigations and take disciplinary action. The State Medical Board may impose a civil penalty in certain instances. Any fine revenues collected would be deposited into the State Medical Board Operating Fund (Fund 5C60).

Current law, unchanged by the bill, allows a physician licensed in another state to obtain a special activity certificate from the State Medical Board that authorizes the physician to practice in conjunction with an Ohio activity, event, or program in the public interest. An applicant for a certificate must demonstrate that the applicant holds an unrestricted license in another state and pay a \$125 fee for the certificate, which is valid for 30 days. The provisions of the bill may affect the number of physicians applying for special activity certificates. As such, the Board could experience a loss in revenue from the special activity certificate fee and a decrease in administrative costs related to issuance of the certificate. The Board issued five of these certificates in FY 2017 and 17 in FY 2016 so any impact would be negligible.