


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
STATE
FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 07-0435
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Kefalas
 Sen. Bacon

Date: January 29, 2007
Bill Status: House Health and Human Services
Fiscal Analyst: Amy Larsen (303-866-3488)

TITLE: CONCERNING STANDARDS FOR HEMODIALYSIS TECHNICIANS AS PART OF THE STATE REGULATION OF DIALYSIS TREATMENT CLINICS.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2007-2008	FY 2008-2009
State Revenue	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Expenditures		
General Fund	\$ 40,429	\$ 27,306
FTE Position Change	0.8 FTE	0.5 FTE
Effective Date: July 1, 2007		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2007-2008: See State Appropriations section of the fiscal note.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill requires the State Board of Health to establish minimum standards for curricula, instructors, and technician competency and certification for hemodialysis technicians. Licensed dialysis treatment clinics may not allow a person to perform the duties and functions of a hemodialysis technician, unless the board's standards are met. The Department of Public Health and Environment must verify that dialysis treatment clinics follow this requirement as a condition of licensure. The bill is repealed July 1, 2017.

Background

Hemodialysis is a type of dialysis where blood is pumped outside the body into an artificial kidney machine to clean the blood. Patients generally go to a dialysis treatment center, but some patients receive hemodialysis in their homes with the assistance of a technician, nurse or trained family member. The Department of Public Health and Environment reports that there are currently 51 licensed dialysis treatment clinics in Colorado. The number of patients receiving in-home treatment is not known.

State Expenditures

State General Fund expenditures for the Department of Public Health and Environment are expected to increase by \$40,429 and 0.8 FTE in FY 2007-08 and by \$27,306 and 0.5 FTE in FY 2008-09.

The Department of Public Health and Environment is expected to assist the Board of Health in rule development, implement a certification program for 450 hemodialysis technicians, and verify that dialysis treatment facilities comply with the bill. These activities require 0.8 FTE in the first year and 0.5 FTE in subsequent years. The workload decreases in the second year once the program is established and one-time activities are completed. The following assumptions were made to estimate the costs of HB07-1131:

- staff will research and write rules for board consideration;
- rules will specify one or more acceptable training, testing, and credentialing programs in the private sector instead of the department developing its own training and testing program;
- 450 individuals will submit applications for certification as hemodialysis technicians to the department, and the department will issue individual certificates and create an electronic registry;
- dialysis facilities will be required to annually attest that they only employ certified hemodialysis technicians as part of their license renewal application;
- on-site inspections of dialysis facilities for Medicare certification will also be expanded to verify compliance with the bill, reaching one-third of the facilities each year; and
- expenditures will be taken from the General Fund, since other funding is not specified.

Expenditures Not Included

Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, funding for the items noted below will not be included in fiscal note expenditure estimates. However, indirect costs are calculated for the purpose of identifying the "per applicant" cost of a new or revised fee to reflect the total direct and indirect costs required to support a particular program.

- group health, life and dental insurance
- inflation indices
- amortization equalization disbursements
- supplemental amortization equalization disbursements
- short-term disability
- leased space
- indirect costs

State Appropriations

For FY 2007-08, the fiscal note indicates that the Department of Public Health and Environment should receive a General Fund appropriation of \$40,429 and 0.8 FTE.

Departments Contacted

Public Health and Environment

Regulatory Agencies