


Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Kwame R. Brown
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: October 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “The Board of Medicine Membership and Licensing Amendment Act of 2011”

REFERENCE: B19-159, draft committee print shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 12, 2011

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2012 through FY 2015 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation.

Background

The proposed legislation would expand¹ the membership at the District of Columbia Board of Medicine (“Board”) from 11 to 15; and allow the Board to establish sub-committees (of either members of the Board or non-members) on a specified issue or discipline.

The bill would also allow the Board to regulate the practice of physicians-in-training. The term refers to the practice of medicine by a resident or fellow, or other similar designation, enrolled in a nationally accredited or Board approved training program in the District of Columbia.

Currently, the Board collects information on the number of physicians-in-training, but the Board does not have any oversight over the practice of the physicians-in-training. The graduate medical education officers at their respective training institutes are the oversight officials. Under the proposed legislation, the Board would require these physicians-in-training to apply for licensure. The Board would determine the fee for issuance of a license for physicians-in-training.

¹ The bill would amend District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01 *et seq.*).

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2012 through FY 2015 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation.

Expanding the Board membership by 4 members does not have a fiscal impact. The only compensation Board members receive is lunch during meetings and reimbursements for parking costs to attend the meetings. These minor costs and any additional minimal administrative costs resulting from this legislation could be absorbed within the Health Regulation and Licensing Administration's current budget.

The cost regarding the regulation of the practice of physicians-in-training can be covered by the fees charged for the licenses that the Board would issue. The Board estimates that approximately 1,200 physicians-in-training would apply for licenses, and a license fee of approximately \$100—at par with medical licenses for physicians—would cover the associated costs of oversight and administration.