
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

This bill permits physicians licensed by the State Medical Board under Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code to employ alternative medical practices with the informed consent of their patients, provided that the treatment is consistent with the standards of the medical practice act. The only potential source of fiscal impact, albeit minimal, arises from the potential occurrence of misuse of alternative treatments by physicians.

In cases where it appears that a licensed physician has violated the standards of care, the Medical Board will be required to investigate the potential violations. LBO estimates that the number of potential cases should not be large enough to fiscally burden the investigative unit at the Board. On average, the Board spends \$660 per incident to investigate potential violations. This figure was obtained by dividing the total payroll for enforcement and investigations in FY 1999 (\$1,642,933) by the total number of investigations in calendar year 1998 (2488).

For a serious violation of the medical practice act, however, the Board may face expenses averaging approximately \$3,900 per adjudicatory hearing. This estimate was obtained by dividing the expenditures for hearing officers, court reporters, and experts in FY 1999 (\$303,937) by the total number of Chapter 119. hearings in CY 1998 (79 hearings).

Synopsis of Changes

This bill was amended in committee to include a provision stating that the use of alternative medical treatments, as defined in section 4731.227 of the Revised Code, is not in and of itself a departure from or failure to conform to minimal standards of care. Under current law, the State Medical Board may take action against a physician for not providing minimal standards of care. This changes has no fiscal effect.

□ *LBO staff: Jeffrey M. Rosa, Budget/Policy Analyst*

H:\Fn123\HB0090h1.DOC