
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Board of Nursing Revenue

Under this bill, the Board of Nursing will be charged with the task of certifying dialysis technicians. According to information provided to the Board by the Ohio Renal Association, the estimated number of technicians that are expected to seek certification from the Board is 1,000. The Board, which shall set the fee schedule in rules, states that it will charge \$50 for a two-year license. The Board selected this amount to match the current license fees that are paid by nurses. This will provide \$50,000 in revenue per biennium to the Board. In the second-year of the license cycle, unless the Board chooses to stagger the renewal period, there would be no revenue from the certification process except for those new licenses.

The bill also requires the Board to certify individuals seeking to operate a dialysis-training program. The Ohio Renal Association told the Board that there should be 125 applications for the training program. Like the technician certification, the bill states that the Board shall establish the certification fee for the training program in rules. According to the Board, this fee will be \$1,000 per program. The amount was chosen to match the fee that the Board charges Continuing Nurse Education approvers. Estimated revenue from this certification class is \$125,000 per two-year period. In the second-year of the license cycle, unless the Board chooses to stagger the renewal period, or there are new certification applicants, there would be no revenue from the certification process. For the combined categories of certification, biennial revenue for the Board is estimated to be \$175,000. Over time the cycle for licensure should even out with revenue ultimately creating a more even cash flow.

Board of Nursing Expenditures

One-time Costs

The Board estimates initial expenses of \$36,100 to certify dialysis technicians. This figure includes \$6,400 to purchase two new computers and the required software. Additional costs include \$700 for a file system and \$1,000 for file supplies. The costs associated with holding a public hearing for the administrative rules required under the bill will be about \$3,000. This figure includes reimbursement for the Board members, court reporters, transcripts, copies of the rules and postage to mail the rules out, and the publication of the rules in the newspaper.

The other major one-time expenditure for the Board would be the purchase of an integrated voice response system that would allow an individual to contact the Board and receive an automated verification of the certification status of a dialysis technician. The Board currently operates this system for registered nurses and stated that a new, separate system that is tied directly to the dialysis technician database would be needed. According to the Board, without this system, a full-time staff person would be required to field public inquiries. The cost for the system is \$25,000.

On-going Costs

In addition to the start-up costs of \$36,100, the Board estimates annual expenditures of \$143,700. To operate the program, the Board would hire two additional staff at a cost of \$58,500 per person. This figure includes 30 percent fringe benefits. Costs for travel, telephones, and supplies for these employees are estimated at \$5,000 per person. Costs to operate the integrated voice response system will be \$12,000 per year. The Board estimates that the cost of printing dialysis technician certification applications will be \$1,000 per year. The other source of on-going costs will be \$3,700 per year to fund the Advisory Group on Dialysis, which will be described in the following section.

Advisory Group on Dialysis

The bill also sets up the Advisory Group on Dialysis to advise the Board of Nursing regarding the qualifications, standards for training, competence of dialysis technicians, and all other matters related to dialysis technicians. In addition to a representative of the Board of Nursing who will serve as chairperson, the Advisory Group will consist of ten members as follows:

1. 4 dialysis technicians;
2. 1 RN who regularly performs dialysis;
3. 1 physician who specializes in nephrology;
4. 1 administrator of a dialysis center;
5. 1 dialysis patient; and
6. 1 representative of the Association for Hospitals and Health Systems (OHA)
7. 1 representative from the End-State Renal Disease Network as defined in 42 CFR 405.2100.

These individuals serve without compensation but receive actual and necessary expenses incurred in the course of their duties on the Advisory Group. The Board estimates that the Advisory Group will meet approximately six times per year.

Timeframes Established in Bill

Section 3 of the bill outlines time frames for the effective date of various sections of the bill. Although the Board will be allowed to begin certifying individuals under the provisions contained in this bill, the sections requiring a technician to be certified by the Board do not take effect until one year after the effective date of the bill. This will allow for a limited period for individuals to meet compliance with the requirements established in law as a result of this bill.

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