

# Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

127<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Ohio

Ohio Legislative Service Commission  
77 South High Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6136 ♦ Phone: (614) 466-3615  
♦ Internet Web Site: <http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/>

BILL: **S.B. 279** DATE: **April 9, 2008**  
 STATUS: **As Introduced** SPONSOR: **Sen. Schuring**  
 LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: **No — No local cost**  
 CONTENTS: **Revises the law regarding certain State Medical Board procedures, restrictions on physician assistants, and admission to the massage or cosmetic therapist examination**

## State Fiscal Highlights

STATE FUND	FY 2009	FY 2010	FUTURE YEARS
<b>Fund 5C6 (State Medical Board Operating Fund)</b>			
Revenues	Potential minimal gain due to fees for visiting medical faculty certificates; Potential gain of up to \$8,550 in fees due to massage or cosmetic therapist exam eligibility; Potential loss due to fees for physician assistants who are Veterans Administration employees	Potential minimal gain due to fees for visiting medical faculty certificates; Potential gain of up to \$8,550 in fees due to massage or cosmetic therapist exam eligibility; Potential loss due to fees for physician assistants who are Veterans Administration employees	Potential minimal gain due to fees for visiting medical faculty certificates; Potential gain of up to \$8,550 in fees due to massage or cosmetic therapist exam eligibility; Potential loss due to fees for physician assistants who are Veterans Administration employees
Expenditures	Potential minimal savings due to registration procedures; Potential increase in administrative costs to administer exam to massage and cosmetic therapists (offset by fee revenue)	Potential minimal savings due to registration procedures; Potential increase in administrative costs to administer exam to massage and cosmetic therapists (offset by fee revenue)	Potential minimal savings due to registration procedures; Potential increase in administrative costs to administer exam to massage and cosmetic therapists (offset by fee revenue)

Note: The state fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. For example, FY 2009 is July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.

- **Registration for physicians and podiatrists.** The bill modifies the procedures for biennial registration renewal for a physician or podiatrist and eliminates the requirement of providing a printed list of registered physicians and podiatrists. These provisions may result in minimal savings to the State Medical Board.
- **Duration of visiting medical faculty certificates.** The bill increases the duration of a visiting medical faculty certificate. This may result in a slight increase in applications, which would result in a minimal gain in fee revenue to the State Medical Board.



- **Effect of physician assistant laws on Veterans Administration employees.** The bill exempts medical personnel employed by the Veterans Administration from the laws governing the practice of physician assistants. Depending on the number of individuals who qualify for the exemption, there may be a loss of fee revenue to the State Medical Board.
- **Criteria for admission to massage or cosmetic therapist examinations.** The bill allows an applicant for a certificate to practice massage therapy or cosmetic therapy to be admitted to the State Medical Board's examination on the basis of being licensed in another state or holding national certification. Annually, approximately 25 to 30 additional individuals are estimated to qualify to sit for the exam, which would result in a revenue gain of up to \$8,550 for the State Medical Board.

## *Local Fiscal Highlights*

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.
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## *Detailed Fiscal Analysis*

### **Registration for physicians and podiatrists**

The bill modifies the procedures used for the biennial registration renewal of a physician or podiatrist. The modifications primarily eliminate specificity of the procedures and instead grant general authority to the State Medical Board to prescribe the procedures. The bill also eliminates provisions in current law that require the State Medical Board to publish and mail, upon request, a printed list of all registered physicians or podiatrists.

These provisions may result in minimal savings to the State Medical Board as a result of lessening the specific procedural requirement associated with certificates of renewal and eliminating the requirement regarding publishing, and mailing on request, a printed list of registered physicians and podiatrists.

### **Duration of visiting medical faculty certificates**

The State Medical Board is permitted to issue a visiting medical faculty certificate to a physician licensed in another state that has been appointed to serve in Ohio on the academic staff of a medical school. The bill increases the duration of a visiting medical faculty certificate from one year to three years and the fee from \$125 to \$375.

At present, there are four visiting medical faculty certificate holders. Under current law, a visiting medical faculty certificate is not renewable. By increasing the duration of time for which the certificate is valid, the State Medical Board believes that it may be more attractive for physicians from other states to come and teach at an Ohio medical school. The Board anticipates a slight increase in applications, which would result in a minimal gain in fee revenue to the Board.

### **Effect of physician assistant laws on Veterans Administration employees**

The bill exempts medical personnel employed by the Veterans Administration (VA) from the laws governing the practice of physician assistants.

Currently, the fee for a physician assistant to obtain a certificate to practice is \$200 and a two-year renewal is \$100. Depending on the number of individuals who qualify for the new exemption, there may be a loss of fee revenue to the State Medical Board. In Ohio there are 5 VA Medical Centers, 2 outpatient clinics, 28 community-based outpatient clinics, and 6 Vet Centers. LSC staff contacted the VA and requested information on the number of physician assistants employed by the VA in Ohio. At the time of this writing, LSC staff had not yet received the requested information. Therefore, quantifying the magnitude of the fee revenue loss to the Board is not possible at this time.

### **Criteria for admission to massage or cosmetic therapist examinations**

The bill allows an applicant for a certificate to practice massage therapy or cosmetic therapy to be admitted to the State Medical Board's examination on the basis of being licensed in another state or holding national certification.

As a result of these provisions, the State Medical Board expects that, annually, approximately 25 to 30 additional individuals will qualify to sit for the exam. The current cost to take the exam is comprised of two separate fees. The preliminary education fee is \$35 and the examination fee is \$250. The additional fees could result in a revenue gain of up to \$8,550  $((\$250 + \$35) \times 30)$  for the State Medical Board. In addition, the Board will experience a corresponding increase in administrative costs to review these additional applications, administer the examination, and issue the certificate. The collection of fees would presumably offset any increase in administrative costs.

*LSC fiscal staff: Stephanie Suer, Budget Analyst*

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