

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 78TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 22, 2003**

**TO:** Honorable Norma Chavez, Chair, House Committee on Border and International Affairs

**FROM:** John Keel, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB1130** by Hardcastle (Relating to immigration visa waivers for physicians.), **As Introduced**

**Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds** for HB1130, As Introduced: an impact of \$0 through the biennium ending August 31, 2005.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

**General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

Fiscal Year	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds
2004	\$0
2005	\$0
2006	\$0
2007	\$0
2008	\$0

**All Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

Fiscal Year	Probable (Cost) from <i>GENERAL REVENUE</i> <i>FUND</i> 1	Probable Revenue Gain/ (Loss) from <i>GENERAL REVENUE</i> <i>FUND</i> 1	Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2003
2004	(\$60,000)	\$60,000	1.0
2005	(\$60,000)	\$60,000	1.0
2006	(\$60,000)	\$60,000	1.0
2007	(\$60,000)	\$60,000	1.0
2008	(\$60,000)	\$60,000	1.0

**Fiscal Analysis**

The bill would amend the Health and Safety Code to allow for an increase in the number of expedited immigration waivers for foreign trained physicians and would require these physicians to locate in medically underserved areas or Health Professional Shortage Areas of Texas. The bill would amend the Occupations Code to remove the authorization to allow foreign immigrant physicians that qualified for expedited immigration waivers to serve as faculty in health-related institutions or medical schools. The bill would also repeal Section 51.949 of the Education Code, relating to immigration visa waivers for physicians who agree to practice in underserved areas or in the area of graduate medical education.

The Department of Health assumes that the department would assess a \$2000 application fee for each

requested waiver, to be deposited to the credit of the General Revenue fund.

### **Methodology**

The cost estimate assumes 30 waivers are processed by the Department of Health per year, with an application fee of \$2000. This may generate \$60,000 per year. One FTE is assumed necessary at \$45,000 plus benefits. The FTE will receive and review applications, recommend qualified applicants and track the physicians placed under the waiver program to ensure compliance with requirements. A computer is included at a cost of \$2,193.

### **Technology**

One computer is assumed within the cost estimate at \$2,193.

### **Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 501 Department Of Health, 503 Board Of Medical Examiners, 781 Higher Education Coordinating Board

**LBB Staff:** JK, EB, KF, MB