

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**

**Austin, Texas**

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

**April 11, 2003**

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

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

**IN RE: SB558** by Madla (Relating to immigration waivers for physicians. ), **Committee Report 2nd House, As Amended**

**Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds** for SB558, Committee Report 2nd House, As Amended: 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:**

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

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

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable (Cost) from GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1</b>	<b>Probable Revenue Gain/ (Loss) from GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1</b>	<b>Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2003</b>
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 add Section 12.0127 to 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 and practice medicine. This section also provides authority for the department to charge a fee to cover the costs of administering the visa waiver program. The bill would amend Section 155.1025(a) of 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 full time equivalent 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