

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

**FISCAL NOTE, 79TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**April 29, 2005**

**TO:** Honorable John T. Smithee, Chair, House Committee on Insurance

**FROM:** John S. O'Brien, Deputy Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: SB261** by Williams ( relating to the creation of a program to educate the public on the value of health coverage and to increase public awareness of health coverage options.), **Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted**

<b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b>
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The bill would amend the Insurance Code and require the Department of Insurance to develop and implement a health coverage awareness and education program to increase public awareness of health coverage options and educate the public on the value of health coverage. It would require the development of public service announcements and an Internet website designed to educate the public. The Department of Insurance indicates that any additional work resulting from the passage of the bill could be reasonably absorbed within current resources.

The bill would take effect immediately upon receiving a two-thirds majority vote in each house. If the bill does not receive a two-thirds vote in each house, the bill would take effect September 1, 2005.

**Local Government Impact**

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 359 Office of Public Insurance Counsel, 454 Department of Insurance, 529 Health and Human Services Commission

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