

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

**FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**February 23, 2009**

**TO:** Honorable Jane Nelson, Chair, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

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

**IN RE: SB286** by Nelson (Relating to a health passport for Medicaid recipients.), **As Introduced**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The Health and Human Services Commission estimates that costs to implement the bill can be absorbed using existing resources. This is because the agency assumes that the functionalities available in the Medicaid Eligibility and Health Information Project (MEHIP) could be leveraged to achieve most of the objectives outlined in the bill.

The agency states that there are two requirements that are currently not available through MEHIP, however. The first is information on patient allergies. To facilitate this requirement, a new functionality would be added allowing providers to input allergy information into the electronic health record.

The second is to make the health passport information available to certain clients in a printed or electronic format. The agency states this could be provided under MEHIP and that costs associated with adding this requirement would be nominal.

When full implementation of electronic health records occurs as specified by the bill on September 1, 2014, there may be implementation costs, including information technology costs.

**Local Government Impact**

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 529 Health and Human Services Commission

**LBB Staff:** JOB, CL, MB