

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 10, 2017

TO: Honorable Kelly Hancock, Chair, Senate Committee on Business & Commerce

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB3124 by Gooden (Relating to certain physician-specific comparison data compiled by a health benefit plan issuer, including the release of that data to physicians participating in certain physician-led organizations.), **As Engrossed**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated from the provisions of the bill related to the requirements for health benefit plan issuers. The fiscal implications of the bill on the Texas Medical Board cannot be determined at this time due to the unavailability of the estimates on the number of complaints, actions, and administrative penalties that would be subject to physicians under the provisions of the bill.

The bill would amend the Insurance Code relating to certain physician-specific comparison data compiled by a health benefit plan issuer, including the release of that data to physicians participating in certain physician-led organizations. The bill would require a health benefit plan issuer to disclose certain cost comparison data to a physician upon request. Under the provisions of the bill, the physicians could dispute the cost comparison. The Commissioner of the Texas Department of Insurance would be required to adopt rules to implement the chapter. A health benefit plan issuer that violates the provisions of the bill would be subject to disciplinary actions and sanctions. Under the provisions of the bill, a violation of the subchapter by a physician would be subject to disciplinary action by the Texas Medical Board.

The Texas Department of Insurance anticipates any additional work resulting from the passage of the bill could be reasonably absorbed within current resources. The Texas Medical Board anticipates an increase in complaints reported to the agency which would result in increased workload for the agency; however, the number of complaints and impact on workload cannot be estimated due to a lack of available data.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 454 Department of Insurance, 503 Texas Medical Board, 710 Texas A&M University System Administrative and General Offices, 720 The University of Texas System Administration

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