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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Trujillo, CH ORIGINAL DATE 2/6/16
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 179

SHORT TITLE Patient Safe Staffing Act SB _____

ANALYST Chilton

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$65.0	Recurring	General Fund
	\$35.0	Non-recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Not Received From
Human Services Department (HSD)
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Each hospital in the state would be required to set up an 11-member nursing staffing committee, which would determine a minimum number of nurses for each hospital unit for each shift. The committee would also be responsible for the orientation of each nurse to each unit new to her/him, and specify when, in case of emergency, the minimum staffing provisions could be waived. The committee would assure that a daily report on patient census and staffing be posted on each hospital unit.

Each hospital would be required to report to the DOH website on a quarterly basis on staffing and census, admissions and discharges, for each hospital unit, and these reports would be made available to consumers on the DOH website.

DOH would also make rules regarding provisions of the Patient Safe Staffing Act, and enforce hospitals' adherence to those rules and to the act.

Whistleblower protection would be provided to those reporting violations of the Patient Safe Staffing Act.

This bill, the Patient Safe Staffing Act, appropriates \$100,000 from the General to DOH for the purpose of increasing staffing to accommodate the needs of this bill (\$65,000) and to program the department's website to post reports from affected institutions and make those reports available to consumers.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund, although the portion of funding related to the development of the website might be considered non-recurring. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2017 shall revert to the General Fund.

Personnel costs for developing and staffing the nursing staff committees at each hospital would be the responsibility of those hospitals.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

There is no differentiation by size of hospital in the number of members on the nursing staffing committee.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DOH would need to develop rules for enforcement of the act.

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