



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
2009-10 Legislative Session

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL: 1482

PRINTER'S NO: 3976 PRIME SPONSOR: Mann

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11
Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):		
General Fund	\$0	See Analysis

OVERVIEW:

House Bill 1482 amends the Health Care Facilities Act of 1979, adding Section 809.2, relating to photo identification tag regulations. Under the bill, the Department of Health shall promulgate regulations to require employees to wear a photo identification tag while working. The bill also requires the publishing of interim regulations. The bill defines "employee" and "title." The bill shall be applicable to employees providing direct care to consumers outside of a health care facility or employment agency as well.

In addition, the bill provides for the following exemptions:

- 1) An employee shall not be required to wear a badge if doing so while delivering direct care is not clinically feasible.
- 2) The last name of an employee may be omitted or concealed when delivering direct care to a consumer who exhibits symptoms of irrationality or violence.

The bill specifies that the tag shall include a recent photograph of the employee, the employee's name, the employee's title and the name of the health care facility or employment agency. In addition, the bill outlines requirements for the size and script of the employee's title and what title should be designated to an applicable employee.

The provisions relating to the size and script of the employee's title and what title should be designated to an applicable employee shall take effect on June 1, 2015. The remainder of the act shall take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS:

The requirement that the Department of Health (DOH) promulgate regulations should not adversely impact commonwealth funds. DOH currently has regulations requiring licensed health care practitioners and health care providers employed by health care facilities to wear an ID tag when working in a health care facility. However, the tag is not required to contain a photograph and only applies to individuals while working in a health care facility.

To the extent that identification tags must be updated to comply with the requirements of this bill, health care facilities and/or individual employees may incur a cost for a new, revised tag. Note that under the bill, employees of commonwealth or other government-related health care facilities would be required to wear photo identification tags. This fiscal analysis assumes that any cost would be minimal.

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General Note and Disclaimer: *This Fiscal Note was prepared pursuant to House Rule 19(a), and the elements considered and reported above are required by Section 5 of the rule. Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*