



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 333

PRINTERS NO. 2875

PRIME SPONSOR: Killion

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
State Board of Osteopathic Medicine Restricted Revenue Account	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Establishes a licensure requirement for genetic counselors. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation would amend the Osteopathic Medical Practice Act to require a license in order to practice genetic counseling.

The following are major provisions of the bill:

- Genetic counseling is the provision of services to address the physical and psychological issues associated with the occurrence or risk of occurrence of a genetic disorder, birth defect or genetically influenced condition or disease in an individual or family.
- Beginning two years after the bill's effective date, no one may hold themselves out to the public as a genetic counselor or practice genetic counseling unless licensed by the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.
- A genetic counselor's scope of practice includes obtaining and evaluating medical histories to determine genetic risk, discussing the means of diagnosis and management of genetic risk, coordinating and explaining genetic tests, providing counseling and guidance, and identifying and facilitating access to resources for support.
- A genetic counselor is prohibited from diagnosing, testing or treating any genetic or other disease or condition.

- Other licensees, while acting within the scope of practice of their license, are exempted from this license requirement provided they do not hold themselves out as genetic counselors.
- In order to be licensed, an individual must be at least 21 years of age, be of good moral character, hold a master's or doctoral degree in human genetics or genetic counseling from an accredited educational program or have met the requirements for certification by the American Board of Genetic Counselors (ABGC) or the American Board of Medical Genetics (ABMG), and have passed the ABGC certification examination for genetic counselors or the ABMG certification examination for medical geneticists.
- A "grandfather provision" is included. For a period of three years from the bill's effective date, a person with a master's or higher degree in genetics and at least three years experience working as a genetic counselor, or a person with a bachelor's degree in genetics and at least ten years experience working as a genetic counselor, may obtain licensure without passing the ABGC or ABMG examination.
- Licensees shall complete 30 hours of continuing education each biennial renewal period.
- Licensees shall maintain a minimum of \$1 million professional liability insurance coverage.

FISCAL IMPACT: According to the Department of State, estimated personnel and operating start-up costs for the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine to meet the mandates of this legislation would total \$1,789. These costs would be offset by an initial \$125 biennial fee until the board adopts a fee by regulation. It is anticipated that the approximate annual licensing fee thereafter will be \$60 assessed on the approximate 30 trained genetic counselors in the Commonwealth that fall under the purview of the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine. This legislation will have no adverse impact on the General Fund.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: December 14, 2011

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.