



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 668

PRINTER'S NO. 1928

PRIME SPONSOR: Ward

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2024/25	FY 2025/26
General Fund	\$5,160,000 See Fiscal Impact	\$1,260,000 See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY:

Requires the Department of Health to establish a medication aide training and certification program for nurse aides in long-term care facilities.

ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 668, Printer's Number 1928 amends Act 48 of 1979, known as the Health Care Facilities Act, to add Chapter 8-C Certified Medication Aides. This legislation allows a certified medication aide to administer certain types of medications in specific situations to residents of a long-term care nursing facility. To become a certified medication aide, a nurse aide must complete a training curriculum and pass the required competency evaluation.

The Department of Health is required to:

- Develop a training program for individuals to become certified medication aides.
- Ensure the long-term care nursing facilities contract with an approved instructor.
- Include input from industry stakeholders in training program development and implementation.
- Consult with the State Board of Nursing to determine the number of training program hours that may be credited towards a student in a practical nurse education program.
- Issue certification to eligible individuals who successfully complete the training program and scored 80% or higher on the examination.
- Renew certifications if the certified medication aide meets renewal criteria.
- Develop a medication error prevention course that must be completed by certified medication aide to renew certification.
- Revoke or suspend a certified medication aide's certificate or impose sanctions on certified medication aide, as necessary.
- Impose a civil penalty up to \$500 on a long-term care facility for each incident in which the certified medication aide engages in conduct that constitutes a basis for discipline.
- Suspend or terminate medication aide training program of long-term care nursing facility.
- Prepare and submit an annual report for a period of five years beginning one year after the effective date of this legislation.

Additionally, the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of State, may promulgate regulations as necessary to implement this chapter. This legislation shall take effect in one year upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Health estimates a need for 5.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to meet the requirements of this legislation, projecting an increase in personnel costs of approximately \$560,000. Furthermore, the department expects operational costs to reach \$4.6 million fiscal year 2024/25, with ongoing annual costs of \$700,000 thereafter.

The collection of civil penalties imposed by the department may result in increased revenue received by the Commonwealth. However, the number of facilities that would have a penalty assessed is unknown at this time. Any increase in revenue to the Commonwealth from the civil penalties imposed and collected would offset the increase in administrative costs. As the amount of increased revenue cannot be determined, any offset to the department's increased administrative costs is currently indeterminate.

PREPARED BY: Aniam Iqbal, Budget Analyst
House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: October 7, 2024

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