

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 2293

PRINTER NO. 3344

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 27, 2022

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Bonner

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 2293 amends the Health Care Facilities Act by establishing powers and duties of the Department of Health (department) to oversee temporary health care services agencies.

The bill provides for registration and oversight of temporary health care services agencies. Agencies must register annually with the department using forms and procedures established by the department and must pay an annual registration fee of at least \$500.

The bill provides that a temporary health care services agency must:

- Provide documentation to a health care facility that an employee of the agency working at the facility meets all licensing or certification, training and continuing education standards for the position;
- Comply with all requirements relating to the health and other qualifications of personnel employed in a health care facility;
- Not restrict the employment opportunities of health care personnel;
- Carry medical malpractice insurance of at least \$500,000 to insure against loss, damages or expenses incident to a claim arising out of the death or injury of any individual as the result of negligence or malpractice by an employee of the agency;
- Carry a \$10,000 dishonesty bond for each employee;
- Maintain workers' compensation insurance coverage for all health care personnel provided by the agency;
- Comply with all Pennsylvania employer withholding requirements;
- Retain all records for 10 years; and
- Provide health care facilities with proof of applicable criminal records checks for each employee of the agency.

The department may supplement these requirements through regulation. The bill requires the department to conduct oversight of temporary health care services agencies through complaint investigations and other actions necessary to ensure compliance and provides for remedies, plans of correction and sanctions for

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violations. The department is required to report annually to the General Assembly on the administration of this chapter.

This act shall take effect in immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 2293 is anticipated to cost \$200,000 in General Funds. This estimate assumes the Department of Health will need two additional staff to provide oversight over the temporary health care services agencies at a cost of \$100,000 per employee for salaries and benefits. However, the bill permits the department to increase the annual registration fee, by regulation, sufficient to offset any necessary expenses of the department for administration of this chapter.

The legislation requires the temporary health care services agencies to register annually and pay a registration fee of at least \$500.