OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

S.B. 149
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for S.B. 149's Bill Analysis

Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Roegner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Jake Graffius, Budget Analyst

Highlights

- The State Medical Board will experience costs to participate in the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact. These include costs to process Compact privileges, to investigate any complaints about privilege holders, and to provide required information. However, participating states can charge a fee to issue Compact privileges. The total costs, as well as the amount of revenues received, will depend on the number of respiratory therapists seeking a Compact privilege.

Detailed Analysis

The bill enters Ohio as a party to the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact. The goal of the Compact is to expand access to care by allowing respiratory therapists licensed in a member state to practice in other member states. The member state where a licensee is licensed has authority to impose adverse action against the license issued by that state. The bill authorizes adverse actions (administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action) against, and joint investigations of, licensees by member and remote states. As a result, the Board could realize costs to process and regulate these Compact privileges. The Board may receive complaints regarding out-of-state practitioners with a privilege, which may result in costs for investigations and disciplinary action. If there are any criminal actions taken, there could be court costs. Additionally, the bill requires the Board to submit a uniform data set to the Compact Commission on information concerning respiratory care professionals in the state. There will be administrative costs to submit this information, to promulgate any rules, pay any required annual Compact assessments, and possibly to update information technology or the Board's website. The Board will be required to select one commissioner to serve on the Compact Commission, which could also result in costs (e.g., additional administrative work, travel reimbursements if travel is involved) to the State Medical Board.

Participating states may impose Compact privilege fees, which may help offset some costs. Costs, and the amount of revenue received, will depend on the number of respiratory care professionals seeking privileges. Under the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact, active duty military members and their spouses cannot be required to pay any fees imposed by the Compact Commission. If a remote state chooses to charge a Compact privilege fee, it may choose to charge a reduced fee or no fee to an active military member and member's spouse.

The bill could result in other indirect impacts to the state and political subdivisions. Respiratory care professionals that practice in Ohio with a privilege could provide additional services to Ohioans and provide increased access to services. If this occurs, there could be additional reimbursements from state and local programs that reimburse for these services. However, if the utilization of services led to an avoidance of more expensive treatments, there could be a reduction in costs to state or local programs or health plans.

The Compact becomes effective when seven states enact it into law.

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