

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 134

House of Origin X Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Houck

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Occupational therapy assistants; licensing and regulation

5. Summary: Requires occupational therapy assistants to be licensed by the Board of Medicine. However, a person who has graduated from a duly accredited occupational therapy assistant education program may practice with the title "Occupational Therapy Assistant, License Applicant" or "O.T.A., Applicant" until he has taken and received the results of any examination required by the Board or until six months from the date of graduation, whichever occurs sooner.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See fiscal implications.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No. The Department of Health Professions will adjust fee revenue to meet the anticipated cost of regulation. The department's appropriation can be adjusted once the expenditure impact is more clearly determined.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is estimated that there are approximately 2,580 occupational therapy assistants, similar to the number of licensed occupational therapists. The bill has an enactment clause that requires regulations be in place in 280 days, therefore it is assumed that licensing would begin as early as January 2009. The Board of Medicine will require an additional position to administer a new category of licensee. Assuming this position was hiring in January of 2009, the Department of Health Professions would expend \$28,355 in salary/benefits; \$2,835 in supplies and equipment; and \$1,500 for information technology charges (\$32,690). The cost would be \$56,710 in salary/benefits; \$5,670 in supplies and equipment; \$1,230 in mailings/licenses and \$1,500 for information technology charges (\$65,110) for each subsequent year. These costs do not include any expenditures relating to investigations and disciplinary proceedings which cannot be determined.

The biennial renewal fee for occupational therapy assistants is estimated to be half of the current renewal fee for occupational therapists or \$70. This fee will generate a biennial income of approximately \$180,600 (2,580 x \$70). Income from renewal and application fees is expected to offset the additional cost of the position in the Board of Medicine as well as the expenditures associated with regulating this profession. However, if there is an unexpected number of complaints and disciplinary proceedings, the renewal fee would need to be adjusted to cover the increased costs.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

Department of Health Professions

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This legislation is a companion to HB 383.

Date: 1/17/2008

Document: G:\2008 Fiscal Year\08 Session\Fis\Sb134.Doc

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