



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB16-1047**

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

**Drafting Number:** LLS 16-0498  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Buck; Winter  
Sen. Newell; Roberts

**Date:** September 8, 2016  
**Bill Status:** Signed into Law  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

**BILL TOPIC:** INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
<b>State Revenue</b>	<b>\$311,600</b>	<b>\$311,600</b>	<b>\$311,600</b>
Cash Funds	311,600	311,600	311,600
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$350,805</b>	<b>\$284,188</b>	<b>\$214,300</b>
Cash Funds	331,019	264,169	194,281
Centrally Appropriated Costs	19,786	20,019	20,019
<b>TABOR Impact</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$297,800</b>	Not estimated.
<b>FTE Position Change</b>	1.7 FTE	1.9 FTE	1.9 FTE
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> \$331,019 - Department of Regulatory Agencies (FY 2016-17).			
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> Ongoing state revenue and expenditures increase.			

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill enacts the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (compact) and authorizes the Governor to enter into the compact on behalf of Colorado. Under the compact, physicians licensed in a member state may obtain an expedited license in other member states, allowing them to practice in Colorado or in another member state. The compact is governed by the Interstate Medical Licensure Commission (interstate commission). The compact outlines the process for obtaining an expedited license, including:

- eligibility requirements;
- the designation of a state of principal licensure;
- the application, issuance, and renewal processes; and
- the fees charged by member states.

The compact allows member states to investigate and discipline physicians, including as part of joint investigations with other member states. The interstate commission is required to maintain a database of all licensed physicians in member states. Member states are required to report certain disciplinary actions and complaints against licensed physicians to the interstate commission. In addition, member states are required to share information about disciplinary actions and complaints at the request of another member state.

Nationally, the compact becomes effective and binding upon enactment of the compact by at least seven states. The compact outlines the processes for member states to withdraw from the compact voluntarily, or for the interstate commission to terminate the membership of a state that defaults on its obligations under the compact. The Colorado Medical Board must facilitate the licensure of physicians under the compact, including obtaining a set of fingerprints from an applicant for a fingerprint-based criminal history record check. Physicians licensed under the compact are subject to the Michael Skolnik Medical Transparency Act of 2010.

## **Background**

As of January 2016, the following 12 states have enacted the compact: Alabama, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The interstate commission has begun its work and held meetings in October and December 2015. The interstate commission consists of two voting representatives from each member state and is required to meet at least once per year. Among its various duties, the interstate commission may:

- levy and collect an annual assessment on member states to fund its operations;
- employ an executive director and other staff;
- promulgate rules;
- enforce compliance with compact provisions;
- issue advisory opinions; and
- perform other duties necessary for administration of the compact.

## **Assumptions and Data**

Information on the exact number of physicians in Colorado who would apply for an interstate compact license with Colorado as their principal state of licensure is unknown. It is also unknown how many physicians in other compact states will apply for expedited Colorado licenses. To prepare this estimate, the fiscal note considers the following data on current physician licensing in Colorado:

- approximately 23,000 physicians are currently licensed in Colorado, of which about 16,000 reside in Colorado and about 7,000 reside in other states;
- each year about 1,500 physicians seek a new license in Colorado and an additional 500 physicians licensed in other states seek licensure through endorsement in Colorado; and
- nationally, about 20 percent of physicians hold an active medical license in multiple states.

Using this baseline information, the fiscal note makes the following assumptions:

- about 80 percent of Colorado-based physicians (13,000 physicians) will meet the stricter requirements to apply for an interstate compact license;
- 10 percent of new license applications (150 applicants per year) will also seek an interstate compact license to facilitate obtaining medical licenses in other states;
- 5 percent of qualifying physicians who currently hold a license (650 physicians) will seek an interstate compact license each year;

- implementation of the compact, including rulemaking and IT system changes, will begin on July 1, 2016; and
- the compact will be operational nationally by January 1, 2017, at which point DORA will begin issuing licenses through the compact.

## **State Revenue**

Under the bill, state cash fund revenue from fees will increase by **\$311,600 per year beginning in FY 2016-17**. This fee revenue will be collected by DORA for interstate compact licenses and background checks. Background check revenue will be transferred to the Department of Public Safety (DPS). These revenue impacts are discussed below.

**Interstate compact license.** Beginning in FY 2016-17, DORA will collect \$311,600 per year in fee revenue for interstate compact licenses for Colorado-based physicians and background checks. This revenue is based on 800 physicians seeking an interstate compact license and the fee being set to cover the direct and indirect costs in DORA from Colorado's participation in the interstate compact in FY 2016-17 and beyond. Under the bill, revenue to DORA will be affected in several ways beginning in FY 2016-17.

- First, based on the assumptions above, about 800 Colorado-based physicians are projected to seek an interstate compact license with Colorado as their principal state of licensure. These physicians will pay a fee for this new license in addition to their standard medical license fee.
- Second, an unknown, but presumably small number of physicians will move to Colorado in order to gain residency in a compact state. Fees paid by this population will also be new revenue to the state.
- Third, some percentage of physicians seeking licensure by endorsement will instead seek an expedited license in Colorado through their home state's licensing authority via the interstate compact. This will reduce revenue to DORA, but will be offset by fees transferred to DORA from the physician's home state under the compact.
- Fourth, new revenue will be received from physicians with no prior Colorado license seeking an expedited license in Colorado through their home state under the compact.

Of the revenue impacts listed above, the first is assumed to be the primary source of revenue to the state under the compact. For the purposes of the fiscal note, new fee revenue to DORA is calculated based solely on fees paid by Colorado-based physicians for an interstate compact license, based on the costs outlined in the State Expenditure section. To the extent revenue is received from other states or the population of licensed physicians in Colorado changes due to participation in the interstate compact, these revenue impacts will be accounted for by DORA through the annual budget process.

**Background checks.** Background checks will generate \$31,600 per year in revenue to the Division of Professions and Occupations Cash Fund in DORA, which will be transferred to the DPS to conduct the background checks. Of the revenue passed through to the DPS, \$17,800 will be used by the Colorado Bureau of Investigations (CBI) Identification Unit and \$13,800 will be passed through to the federal government.

**Fee impact on physicians.** State law requires legislative service agency review of measures which create or increase any fee collected by a state agency. Table 1 shows the estimated fee impact for physicians seeking licensure under the compact for FY 2016-17 and future years. The projected fee in this fiscal note is an estimate only; actual fees will be set by DORA and adjusted based on actual participation in the interstate compact by physicians in Colorado and in other states.

<b>Table 1. Annual Fee Impact on Physicians under HB 16-1047</b>			
<b>Type of Fee</b>	<b>Estimated Fee</b>	<b>Number Affected</b>	<b>Total Fee Impact</b>
Interstate Compact License	\$350	800	\$280,000
CBI/FBI Background Check	\$39.50	800	\$31,600
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$311,600</b>

### **TABOR Impact**

This bill increases state cash fund revenue from fees, which will increase the amount of money required to be refunded under TABOR beginning in FY 2017-18. TABOR refunds are paid out of the General Fund. Since the bill increases the TABOR refund obligation without a corresponding change in General Fund revenue, the amount of money available in the General Fund for the budget will decrease by an identical amount. Background check fee revenue passed through to the federal government for an FBI background check is not subject to TABOR. A TABOR refund is not projected for FY 2016-17.

### **State Expenditures**

The bill is estimated to increase costs by **\$350,805 and 1.6 FTE in FY 2016-17, \$284,188 and 1.8 FTE in FY 2017-18, and \$214,300 and 1.8 FTE in FY 2018-19**. These costs are in the DORA, paid from the Division of Professions and Occupations Cash Fund. The costs in DORA are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below. Reappropriated funds from DORA will also cover costs incurred in the DPS for background checks (Table 3), in the Department of Law for legal services, and in the Office of Information Technology for computer system modifications.

<b>Table 2. Expenditures Under HB 16-1047 (DORA)</b>			
<b>Cost Components</b>	<b>FY 2016-17</b>	<b>FY 2017-18</b>	<b>FY 2018-19</b>
Personal Services	\$76,285	\$88,751	\$88,751
FTE (DORA)	1.3 FTE	1.5 FTE	1.5 FTE
Temporary Staff	28,688	28,688	0
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay Costs	10,641	1,425	1,425
Information Technology Costs	113,300	47,200	6,000
Compact Dues	15,000	15,000	15,000
Travel	8,000	4,000	4,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	19,786	20,019	20,019
Legal Services	47,505	47,505	47,505
FTE (Dept. of Law for legal services)	0.3 FTE	0.3 FTE	0.3 FTE
Payments to DPS for Background Checks	31,600	31,600	31,600
FTE (DPS for background checks)	0.1 FTE	0.1 FTE	0.1 FTE
<b>TOTAL - DORA</b>	<b>\$306,486</b>	<b>\$240,102</b>	<b>\$170,214</b>

\* Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

**Personal services (DORA).** DORA requires 1.3 FTE in FY 2016-17 for staff to begin liaising with the interstate commission, plan compact implementation, and begin licensing of Colorado-based and out-of-state physicians. In addition, staff will be responsible for promulgating rules, interacting and sharing information with the interstate commission, performing outreach to physicians, investigating complaints concerning physicians both inside and outside of Colorado, and coordinating with licensing authorities in other states. At full implementation, 1.5 FTE is required, including 0.3 FTE for a program manager, 1.0 FTE for a program technician, and 0.2 FTE for a criminal investigator. Costs for these staff are shown in Table 2 above.

**Temporary staff.** In FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18 only, \$28,688 is required for temporary staff in DORA to handle the initial wave of applications and inquiries concerning the interstate compact (1,600 hours at an hourly rate of \$17.93).

**Operating expenses and capital outlay costs.** DORA will have costs of \$10,641 in the FY 2016-17 and \$1,425 per year in future years for standard operating expenses and capital outlay costs associated with the new staff required under the bill. These costs cover items such as furniture, computers, office software, telephones, and supplies.

**Information technology costs.** DORA will have information technology costs to create new license and renewal types in its licensing system. These changes will accommodate the new interstate compact license for Colorado-based physicians and the expedited license for out-of-state physicians seeking to practice in Colorado. The licensing system must also be modified to report data to, and receive data from, the interstate commission. While the exact nature of the technology systems that will be used by the interstate commission are not known at this time, information technology costs for licensing system modifications in DORA are estimated to be \$113,300 in FY 2016-17 and \$41,200 in FY 2017-18. These estimates assume that 1,100 hours of programming and system testing will be done in the first year and 400 hours in the second year at a rate of \$103 per hour. In addition, beginning in the second year, \$6,000 per year is required for ongoing system maintenance.

**Legal services.** Beginning in FY 2016-17, the bill increases legal service costs in DORA by \$47,505 for 500 hours of legal services. These legal services are provided by the Department of Law, who will require an additional 0.3 FTE to provide this work. During the first year, it is assumed that 250 hours is required for rulemaking and 250 for enforcement actions and hearings. In the second year and beyond, 100 hours is required for general counsel to the Colorado Medical Board and 400 for legal services concerning cross-state enforcement actions and hearings.

While the exact number of complaints concerning Colorado-based physicians for activities in other states and physicians based in other states for activities occurring in Colorado is unknown, the expanded cross-state activity by physicians is expected to increase the number of complaints received by DORA. If complaint-driven activity requires more legal services than estimated in the fiscal note, it is assumed DORA will request additional funding through the annual budget process.

**Compact dues.** As a compact member, Colorado must pay dues to the interstate commission. The exact amount of dues owed is not known at this time and will depend on costs at the interstate commission and the number of participating states in the compact. At this time, based on other multi-state licensing compacts, the fiscal note estimates that dues will be \$15,000 per year beginning in FY 2016-17.

**Travel.** Each state in the compact is required to have two representatives on the interstate commission. Assuming the commission holds an all-member meeting two times in FY 2016-17 and once per year in future years, travel costs and expenses are estimated to be \$8,000 in the first year and \$4,000 per year in future years. Actual costs may vary depending on how often the interstate commission meets.

**Payments to DPS for background checks.** As discussed in the State Revenue section, DORA is estimated to receive \$31,600 in payments from physicians requiring a background check to obtain an interstate compact license. This revenue will be transferred to the DPS for this purpose and will cover the costs listed in Table 3.

<b>Table 3. Expenditures Under HB 16-1047 (DPS)*</b>			
<b>Cost Components</b>	<b>FY 2016-17</b>	<b>FY 2017-18</b>	<b>FY 2018-19</b>
Personal Services	\$5,555	\$5,555	\$5,555
FTE	0.1 FTE	0.1 FTE	0.1 FTE
Miscellaneous Background Check Costs	7,288	7,288	7,288
FBI Background Check Pass-Through	13,800	13,800	13,800
Centrally Appropriated Costs	2,654	2,676	2,676
<b>TOTAL - Department of Public Safety</b>	<b>\$29,297</b>	<b>\$29,319</b>	<b>\$29,319</b>

\* Costs in the DPS are paid using reappropriated funds from DORA.

**Personal services (DPS).** To conduct background checks under the bill, the DPS requires 0.1 FTE for a fingerprint examiner and data specialist. This staffing will cost \$5,555 per year.

**Other background check costs.** The DPS will have costs of \$7,288 for various background check costs such as printing, postage, data access, and system maintenance. In addition, \$13,800 will be passed through the federal government to cover the costs of the FBI background check.

**Centrally appropriated costs.** Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. The centrally appropriated costs subject to this policy are estimated in the fiscal note for informational purposes and summarized in Table 4.

<b>Table 4. Centrally Appropriated Costs Under HB 16-1047 (DORA)</b>			
<b>Cost Components</b>	<b>FY 2016-17</b>	<b>FY 2017-18</b>	<b>FY 2018-19</b>
Employee Insurance (Health, Life, Dental, and Short-term Disability)	\$10,518	\$12,066	\$12,066
Supplemental Employee Retirement Payments	9,268	7,953	7,953
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,786</b>	<b>\$20,019</b>	<b>\$20,019</b>

#### **Effective Date**

The bill was signed by the Governor and took effect on June 8, 2016.

## **State Appropriations**

Consistent with this fiscal note, for FY 2016-17, the bill includes an appropriation of \$331,019 to the Department of Regulatory Agencies from the Division of Professions and Occupations Cash Fund and an allocation of 1.3 FTE. Of this amount, the following reappropriations of funds are required:

- \$29,927 to the Department of Public Safety and an additional allocation of 0.1 FTE for background checks, of which \$13,800 is passed through to the federal government for FBI background checks;
- \$113,300 to the Office of Information Technology; and
- \$47,505 to the Department of Law and an additional allocation of 0.3 FTE.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Governor's Office Judicial Personnel	Public Safety Law	Regulatory Agencies Health Care Policy and Financing
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## **Research Note Available**

An LCS Research Note for HB 16-1047 is available online and through the iLegislate app. Research notes provide additional policy and background information about the bill and summarize action taken by the General Assembly concerning the bill.