

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-7

AN ACT CONCERNING PROTECTIONS FOR ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND THE EQUITABLE DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE STATE.

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 7974

File Copy No.: 604

Senate Calendar No.: 329

OFA Fiscal Note

Reduces Cost In Bill

The amendment strikes sections 16, 17, 19 and 21 of the underlying bill, thus eliminating their associated fiscal impacts and reducing the cost of the bill. The remaining cost of the bill is \$346,400 in FY 26 and \$428,900 in FY 27 associated with expanded Department of Public Health (DPH) oversight of hospitals and creation of a new DPH licensure category.

The removal of sections 16 and 17 eliminates the requirement for the State Department of Education to establish a mental and behavioral health awareness and treatment pilot program in Priority School Districts and the associated FY 26 General Fund appropriation of \$3.6 million.

The removal of sections 19 and 21 eliminates the FY 26 General Fund appropriations associated with the public health urgent communication account (\$5 million) and the emergency public health financial safeguard account (\$30 million) established in the underlying bill.

Additionally, the amendment makes other changes that do not alter the fiscal impact of the underlying bill, including: (1) eliminating the bill's limitations on health care entities' ability to discipline providers for

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certain actions; (2) eliminating the bill's liability protections for refusals of emergency medical services under certain conditions; (3) removing a requirement that certain contracts for on-call coverage be revised as soon as legally permissible; (4) removing language specifically authorizing the court to award costs to a hospital when a civil action brought pursuant to the bill lacks substantial justification; and (5) extending the time period during which an individual may file a civil action against a hospital for a violation of the bill's emergency treatment requirements.

Finally, the amendment makes technical changes that result in no fiscal impact.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.