

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6418**  
**BILL NUMBER: SB 140**

**DATE PREPARED:** Nov 17, 1999  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Hospital doctor public question.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Beverly Holloway; John Parkey  
**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9851; 232-9854

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill requires a statewide public question to be placed on the 2000 general election ballot asking Indiana voters whether Indiana law should require hospitals with at least 100 beds to have on duty at all times at least one physician who is assigned to serve only nonemergency patients. It provides that if more voters vote in favor of this question than are opposed, the State Department of Health is required to adopt a rule to implement the policy described in the public question. State Department of Health may not substantively amend or repeal a rule the State Department is required to adopt following a statewide public question relating to the substance of the rule unless the General Assembly requires by law that the rule be amended or repealed.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2000.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This bill provides that if the voters in the 2000 general election vote in favor of the public question the State Department of Health (SDOH) is required to adopt a rule to implement the question. Any cost of adopting a rule can be absorbed within the existing SDOH budget.

The cost of printing the public question on the general election ballot would not require an additional state General Fund appropriation.

The Secretary of State is required to certify the results of the public question. This can be done within the existing budget of the Secretary of State.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** There is a potential fiscal impact if the voters in the 2000 general election vote in favor of requiring hospitals with at least 100 beds to have on duty at all times at least one physician who is assigned to serve only non emergency patients. There are 126 acute care hospitals in

Indiana. Sixty of these have 100 or more beds and 17 have 24-hour non emergency coverage using interns, residents, or physicians on duty within the hospital. Twenty-six of the 60 hospitals that have 100 beds or more are city-county or county hospitals that may receive some public funds.

Some hospitals may need to hire four additional full time physicians to ensure 24-hour coverage, 365 days per year. The annual salary and benefits of a family practitioner are estimated to be approximately \$175,000. It is difficult to determine the total fiscal impact to each hospital, because some hospitals have physicians on duty part of the time, but not necessarily 24 hours per day.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Secretary of State; State Department of Health.

**Local Agencies Affected:** County election board; County or city-county hospitals with more than 100 beds.

**Information Sources:** Spencer Grover, Indiana Hospital and Health Care Association, (317) 633-4870.