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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6209**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 86**

**NOTE PREPARED: Feb 23, 2009**

**BILL AMENDED: Feb 23, 2009**

**SUBJECT:** Licensure of Genetic Counselors.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Miller

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  GENERAL  
 DEDICATED  
 FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** Beginning July 1, 2010, the bill requires the licensure of genetic counselors.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2009.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Summary-* Professional Licensing Agency (PLA) staff members assigned to the Medical Licensing Board (MLB) would likely be able to license the approximately 24 genetic counselors that may seek licensure. In lieu of any additional appropriations, if an additional staff member were needed, the PLA would have to employ the staff member within their existing level of resources. The bill does not provide an appropriation.

The MLB would be able to determine fees and make other rules concerning genetic counselor licensure within the course of normally scheduled business meetings.

**Background PLA-** The PLA reverted \$514,160 at the close of FY 2008. As of November 24, 2008, the PLA had one vacancy with salary worth \$40,950. However, recent prior year reversions have been zero or minimal due to the addition of several new boards and commissions, which currently total 39.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** (Revised) *Summary-* Money collected from genetic counselor licensing fees would be deposited in the state General Fund. The MLB would determine the fees.

If the MLB set the license fee at \$150, which is the same or similar to the fees charged to acupuncturists and speech and language pathologists, the amount of revenue generated in the first year of implementation could

be \$3,600. The fee estimate is based on 24 genetic counselors applying in the first year.

*Reciprocity-* A genetic counselor licensed in another state would be able to receive licensure in Indiana if the requirements of licensure in the other state were “substantially equivalent” to the requirements for licensure in Indiana as proposed. The application fee for a reciprocity license would be determined by the MLB.

*Penalty Provision:* A person using the title “genetic counselor” or “licensed genetic counselor” without a valid license or temporary license would commit a Class A misdemeanor. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state General Fund (from court fees) would increase. The maximum fine for a Class A misdemeanor is \$5,000. However, any additional revenue would likely be small.

*Background-* The Indiana Network of Genetic Counselors reports that there are about 24 active practicing genetic counselors in Indiana. The National Society of Genetic Counselors reports a national membership of approximately 2,570.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Penalty Provision:* A Class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in jail.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** *Penalty Provision:* If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from court fees. However, any change in revenue would likely be small.

**State Agencies Affected:** Professional Licensing Agency.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:** Indiana State Budget Agency: *General and Rainy Day Fund Summaries, June 30, 2008*; Vacancy Report, 11/24/2008; Indiana Network of Genetic Counselors; National Society of Genetic Counselors.

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