

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

COMM 5/1/01

LRB Number 01-2784/2	Introduction Number SB-167	Estimate Type Original
Subject Dentists' licenses, the practice of dental hygienists, providing educational loan assistance to dentists and dental hygienists, and requiring various plans and reports related to dentistry		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

LRB 2784/2 expands the physician and health care provider loan assistance programs to include dentists and dental hygienists. Under the draft, Commerce will repay student loans for physicians, health care providers, dentists, and dental hygienists who agree to practice in a federally-designated underserved area for a period of three years. Physicians and dentists are eligible for repayments of up to \$50,000, and health care providers and dental hygienists are eligible for repayments of up to \$25,000.

The draft adds dentists and dental hygienists to the list of eligible providers covered by the program; it does not add spending authority to fund awards to these new providers. The appropriation from which the awards are made is currently funded at \$388,700 each year. In FY01, Commerce has made six physician awards and one health care provider award. In FY00, Commerce made six physician awards and two health care provider awards. In FY99, Commerce made two physician awards and one health care provider award (fewer awards were made because the federal matching grant required funds to be encumbered up front). Coverage of dentists and dental hygienists will therefore result in fewer awards being made to physicians and health care providers.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications