

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHFS 1/16/02

LRB Number	01-1131/3	Introduction Number	SB-329	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Provide state agency immunity to physicians who volunteer for public health departments					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill provides immunity to physicians and dentists who volunteer for public health departments. The bill also provides an administrative procedure for the removal of a physician or dentist from state agency status. If this bill is approved, a physician or dentist acting as a state agent is entitled to representation by the state in a civil action. Judgements in such an action would be paid by the Department, with a limitation of \$250,000 being set on any judgement. There would, therefore, be a potential liability to the state from this legislation. The state has never had to defend a physician who has state agency status under current law, so it is not possible to estimate the extent of any potential liability.

Counties and municipalities with public health departments may benefit from this legislation, since the immunity provision may help these departments to recruit volunteers. It is not possible to estimate what the value of this potential impact would be.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications