Fiscal Estimate - 2001 Session

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LRB	Number	01-3774/5		Intro	duction Num	ber Al	B-621	
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives DHFS 12/4/01

LRB Number	01-3774/5	Introduction Number	AB-621	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					

Access to public records; use of SS numbers; prisoner activities; prescription and credit/debit card information; caller ID blocking; privacy impact statements; place of certain trials; DEG officers

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill contains several provisions that could impact the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS). The bill would: (a) prohibit the listing of a person's social security number on a person's health insurance card as an identification number or other purpose; and (b) expand health care records confidentiality requirements to licensed pharmacies and modifies prohibitions and penalities relating to the use of confidential health care records.

The requirement that prohibits the listing of a person's social security number on the person's health insurance card would apply to the HIRSP program. Currently, for most policyholders, the HIRSP program uses the person's social security number as an identification number and lists the social security number on the person's insurance card. As a result of this provision, HIRSP would have to design and implement a new patient identification system, issue approximately 12,000 new ID cards, inform providers and policyholders of the changed identification system, modify applications processing, and make all of the systems changes to process claims, report and track benefits histories on the new identification system. At this time, the exact costs of these changes are uncertain, but these changes are major systems modifications that would have significant costs that could be in the range of several hundred thousand dollars. Any increased cost to the HIRSP program is borne by policy-holders in the form of premiums, insurers through increased assessments, and providers through reduced reimbursements.

The provision expanding confidentiality requirements for licensed pharmacies and pharmacists would not have a significant impact on the Department. The confidentiality provisions would not apply to the processing of pharmacy claims for MA or other programs operated by the Department.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications