



**Fiscal Estimate Narratives**  
**DHFS 3/5/02**

LRB Number <b>01-4192/2</b>	Introduction Number <b>AB-890</b>	Estimate Type <b>Original</b>
<b>Subject</b>		
Extend volunteer health care provider liability protection to health care providers providing services in public schools		

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

Under current law, a health care provider and nonprofit agency can petition DOA to allow the provider to provide, without charge to low-income patients, health care services, including health education, office visits, prescriptions and, for dentists, simple tooth extracting and necessary related suturing. The health care provider is a state agent of the Department for the provision of these services. If a civil action arises out of an act committed by the provider during the lawful course of that person's duties, the state provides legal counsel and any judgements against the provider are paid by the state and capped at \$250,000.

This bill expands the volunteer health care provider program to authorize the provision of volunteer health care services, without charge, in a public elementary or secondary school, if DOA approves the joint application of a health care provider and a school board. The volunteer may provide such services as first aid for illness or injury, health education, office visits, health screenings and any other health care services designated by DPI.

Liability claims against the state are paid from funds administered by the Department of Administration. The Department pays premiums to DOA for liability insurance. Currently the Department pays \$266,100 annually for liability insurance and \$53,200 annually for medical malpractice insurance. It is possible that, if these volunteer health care providers were added to the Department for liability purposes, the number of liability claims to the state would increase. If this happened, the Department's liability premiums would also increase. It is not possible to project what the amount of this increase would be because the extent of possible increased liabilities is not known.

This bill directs that any volunteer health services provided without charge at a school shall be available to all students regardless of income. It is expected that the impact on state MA would be minimal since most children who are MA recipients are in managed care programs, which are reimbursed by a fixed monthly rate.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**