



# SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

## STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

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*This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.*

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	S. 0044	Introduced on January 14, 2025
<b>Subject:</b>	Physician Assistants	
<b>Requestor:</b>	Senate Medical Affairs	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	Welsh	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	August 26, 2025	

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### Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill expands the scope of practice and autonomy for physician assistants (PAs). This bill allows experienced PAs who meet certain criteria to practice independently under an attestation statement without requiring physician supervision, permits licensed PAs from other states or federal agencies to provide emergency medical care with limited liability, and mandates equal third-party reimbursement for PA-provided services. This bill further adds two PA members to the State Board of Medical Examiners.

The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (LLR) indicates that although the State Board of Medical Examiners will now be responsible for processing attestation statements for PAs, it will no longer need to process changes in scope and supervision forms. However, LLR anticipates the addition of two PA members to the State Board of Medical Examiners will increase recurring Other Funds expenses by approximately \$2,000 for travel, per diem, and other related expenses beginning in FY 2026-27. LLR further anticipates that this expenditure can be managed within existing appropriations.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA). However, PEBA notes that Medicare allows reimbursements to PAs at 85 percent of the physician fee schedule. The State Health Plan currently reimburses PAs at 100 percent. This bill would prohibit the State Health Plan from adopting the Medicare rule for the 85 percent reimbursement rate for PAs.

The State Board of Medical Examiners falls under the Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing. Proviso 81.3 of the FY 2025-26 Appropriations Act requires LLR to remit annually to the General Fund an amount equal to 10 percent of expenditures unless the board has an overall negative ending cash balance. Based on LLR's estimated expenditure impact of this bill, implementation of the bill will increase General Fund revenue by approximately \$200 per year beginning in FY 2026-27.

### Explanation of Fiscal Impact

#### Introduced on January 14, 2025

#### State Expenditure

This bill expands the scope of practice and autonomy for PAs. This bill allows experienced PAs who meet certain criteria to practice independently under an attestation statement without

requiring physician supervision, permits licensed PAs from other states or federal agencies to provide emergency medical care with limited liability, and mandates equal third-party reimbursement for PA-provided services. This bill further adds two PA members to the State Board of Medical Examiners.

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This bill will have no expenditure impact on PEBA. However, PEBA notes that Medicare allows reimbursements to PAs at 85 percent of the physician fee schedule. The State Health Plan currently reimburses PAs at 100 percent. This bill would prohibit the State Health Plan from adopting the Medicare rule for the 85 percent reimbursement rate for PAs.

### **State Revenue**

The State Board of Medical Examiners falls under the Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing. Proviso 81.3 of the FY 2025-26 Appropriations Act requires LLR to remit annually to the General Fund an amount equal to 10 percent of expenditures unless the board has an overall negative ending cash balance. Based on LLR's estimated expenditure impact of this bill, implementation of the bill will increase General Fund revenue by approximately \$200 per year beginning in FY 2026-27.

### **Local Expenditure**

N/A

### **Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director