



February 19, 2022

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Changes certain qualifications that are required for the certification of medication aides. Authorizes a graduate of a registered or practical nursing program to perform the duties of a medication aide prior to receiving authorization to take the NCLEX-RN or NCLEX-PN exam.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Revenue –**

**\$56,200/FY24-25 and Subsequent Years/Board of Nursing**

**Increase State Expenditures –**

**\$74,500/FY22-23/Board of Nursing**

**\$62,800/FY23-24 and Subsequent Years/Board of Nursing**

**Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health-related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. The Board of Nursing had a surplus of \$60,992 in FY19-20, a surplus of \$375,321 in FY20-21, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$9,054,180 on June 30, 2021.**

**Assumptions:**

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 63-7-127 requires medication aide examinees to receive an 85 percent on the licensing exam in order to be considered passing. The proposed legislation lowers the passing threshold to 75 percent. It is assumed that this change in required score will not lead to a significant increase in medication aides.
- The Board of Nursing receives an average of 5,621 new applications every year. Since the proposed legislation allows for nursing program graduates to apply for a medication aide position without completing any additional training program, it is estimated that a portion of the Board of Nursing applicants will apply to become medication aides. If 20 percent of these Board of Nursing applicants apply to become a medication aide, that will lead to an increase of 1,124 (5,621 x 20%) applicants.
- In order to process this increase in applications in a timely manner, along with the potential increase in applications resulting from the changing of certain requirements, the Board of Nursing requires an additional Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant 2, which will result in a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$54,909 (\$41,148 salary + \$13,761 benefits), plus a recurring administrative cost allocation of \$7,900 and

a one-time cost of \$11,700 for computer equipment, which would be funded through the Board of Nursing's revenue.

- The total increase in state expenditures will be \$74,509 (\$54,909 + \$7,900 + \$11,700) in FY22-23 and \$62,809 (\$54,909 + \$7,900) in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- Although there is no initial application fee for medication aides, there is a \$100 renewal fee for applications every two years. Assuming all applicants would seek licensure renewal, it would result in an increase in state revenue of \$112,400 (1,124 x \$100) every two years, or an average of \$56,200 (\$112,400 / 2) per year, beginning in FY24-25.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health-related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. The Board of Nursing had a surplus of \$60,992 in FY19-20, a surplus of \$375,321 in FY20-21, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$9,054,180 on June 30, 2021.

### **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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