

SB 139 - HB 144

FISCAL NOTE



Fiscal Review Committee
Tennessee General Assembly

January 31, 2025

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SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires each hospital that accepts Medicaid to include on a patient's admission or registration forms a provision for the patient or the patient's representative to indicate whether the patient is: (1) a citizen of the United States; (2) lawfully present in the United States; or (3) not lawfully present in the United States.

Requires each hospital to submit a report to the Department of Health (DOH) within 30 calendar days after the end of each quarter with the number of hospital admissions and emergency department visits within the previous quarter that were made by a patient based on their reported legal status in the United States.

Requires DOH to submit an annual report, beginning July 1, 2026, to the Governor, the Speaker of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives detailing the total number of such hospital admissions and emergency department visits for the previous year. Requires the report to describe information relating to the costs of uncompensated care for a person not lawfully present in the United States, and the impact of uncompensated care on the cost or ability of hospitals to provide services to the public, hospital funding needs, and other related information.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS), the regional mental health hospitals operated by the DMHSAS currently have a non-mandatory citizenship field in their electronic admission forms.
- It is estimated that the existing form can be modified to conform with the proposed legislation utilizing existing resources.
- Tennessee Code Annotated § 68-1-108(a) requires each hospital licensed by the Health Facilities Commission or by DMHSAS to report all claims data on every inpatient and outpatient discharge to the Commissioner of DOH at least quarterly.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 68-1-109 and 68-11-310(a), all licensed hospitals must submit to DOH a joint annual report of the statistical particulars relative to their patients for the fiscal year, including information on reductions in charges made by the provider of services because of the indigence or medical indigence of the patient.
- It is assumed that DOH can compile and submit the required reports utilizing existing personnel and resources, without an increase in expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bojan Savic, Executive Director