



DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

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March 4, 2020

Honorable Alan Powell
Chairman, Regulated Industries
613 Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill 910 (LC 33 8184)

Dear Chairman Powell:

This bill would provide for creation of the Advisory Group for Licensed Midwives, which would advise the Secretary of State (SOS) in the regulation of licensing and regulation of midwifery. The bill establishes certification and education requirements for those seeking a license, with the requirements including certified midwives (CM) and certified professional midwives (CPM). The bill does not impact certified nurse midwives (CNM) licensed by the Georgia Board of Nursing.

Costs to the Secretary of State's Office

According to the SOS, the bill would result in one-time and annual costs as shown in **Table 1**. One-time costs of \$80,000 are related to required changes to the licensing information system. Ongoing costs of approximately \$78,000 are primarily related to personnel. The personnel costs are associated with staff performing functions related to licensing, compliance, investigations, intake, and the call center. Operations costs primarily include training, information technology, and the Office of State Administrative Hearings.

Table 1. Total Expenditures for the Board and Secretary of State's Office

	One-Time Costs	Annual Costs
Licensing System Integration	\$80,000	-
Personnel Costs	-	\$66,049
Operating Costs	-	<u>\$12,000</u>
Total	\$80,000	\$78,049

Fee Revenue to Secretary of State's Office

Fee amounts would be determined by SOS. According to the Georgia Midwives Association, there are approximately 30 CPMs currently practicing in Georgia. Creation of the Board could encourage individuals to obtain their professional midwife certification and licensure. Due to the

uncertainty of fee amounts that will be set, and number of professional midwives that may seek licensure, we present scenarios of revenues that the SOS may collect.

Table 2. Estimated Biannual Fee Revenue Scenarios from Licensed Midwives

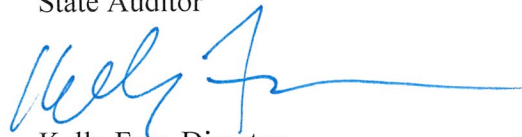
Scenarios	Estimated LMs	Using \$50 SOS Fee ¹	Using \$150 Other State Fee ²
Low Estimate of Licensees & Fees	50	\$2,500	\$7,500
High Estimate of Licensees & Fees	100	\$5,000	\$15,000

¹ The Secretary of State's Office proposed a \$50 fee based on existing license costs for comparable boards.
² Other State Fee is based on research performed on neighboring states. South Carolina's \$150 licensure fee for professional midwives is the lowest amount of neighboring states.

Sincerely,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor



Kelly Farr, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/KF/mt