



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

July 26, 2022

Honorable Chuck Hufstetler
Chairman, Senate Finance
121-C State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
Senate Bill (LC 54 0118)

Dear Chairman Hufstetler:

This bill would provide for the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants (AA), authorizing the Georgia Composite Medical Board (GCMB) to issue, suspend, deny, and renew licenses. It defines anesthesiologist assistants, determines requirements for licensure, and provides details on renewing the license. The bill also adds one board member to the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

Regulating the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants would require state funding of \$29,302 in the year implemented. Going forward, the funding required would be \$3,780 in annual per diem for an additional board member. Projected costs of the bill used the data and assumptions below.

- Temporary staff to process new AA applications (\$22,012) – All anesthesiologist assistants are licensed as physicians assistants (PA) in Georgia and would need to submit an application to change their licenses to AA from PA. Currently there are over 6,300 licensed physicians assistants in Georgia, and GCMB officials estimate approximately six months to process the applications.
- Telecommunications/computer charges for temporary staff (\$1,200) – Charges for six months of temporary staff
- Board per diem for new committee setup (\$2,310) – Board member per diems for initial set up of the anesthesiologist assistants license/committee. This amount could be lower if rule making activities are able to be combined with regular board meetings.
- Annual board per diem for new anesthesiologist assistant member (\$3,780)
- No additional costs are anticipated to add a new license type, and because the number of licensees is not expected to increase, current GCMB staffing levels should be sufficient to administer AA licensing.
- No additional software costs are expected as a result of adding the new AA license category or from ongoing operating for the AA category.
- No additional license fees are anticipated since AA's are already licensed as PA's.

The bill does not address implementation timing, but if the AA license were implemented at renewal, GCMB officials indicated that the need for a temporary staff person to process new AA licenses would

not be necessary, saving \$23,212 in initial implementation costs. However, since the renewal cycle is two years, this type of implementation would occur over the longer, two-year period.

Respectfully,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor



Kelly Farr, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/KF/co