



# DOAA

Georgia Department  
of Audits & Accounts

**Greg S. Griffin**  
State Auditor

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Lee Hawkins  
Chairman, House Health Committee  
401-C State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note  
House Bill 951 (LC 52 0886)

Dear Chairman Hawkins:

The bill would require the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) and the University System of Georgia (USG) health plan to allow covered persons to obtain up to three orthotic or prosthetic devices per affected limb in a three-year period. The devices must be deemed medically necessary by a healthcare provider. The benefit must be in place on and after January 1, 2027.

The bill would result in additional costs to the Department of Community Health and USG, as discussed below.

- **Department of Community Health** – SHBP currently covers orthotic and prosthetic devices, with a limit of one device every three years and medical necessity determined by the plan. As shown in **Table 1**, an additional device for 5% of the population would cost approximately \$1.4 million annually.

**Table 1: SHBP Estimate of Costs for LC 52 0886**

Category	Members with Devices	Additional Devices	Avg. Cost per Device	Additional Device Costs
Prosthetics	3,976	199	\$5,000	\$993,900
Orthotics	15,902	795	\$500	\$397,560
<b>Total</b>	19,878	994	N/A	<b>\$1,391,460</b>

- **University System of Georgia** – Like SHBP, the USG health plan currently covers these devices but at the limit of one every three years. As shown in Table 2, an increase in device claims of 5% would result in additional costs of approximately \$100,000 annually.

**Table 2: USG Health Plan Estimate of Costs for LC 52 0886**

Category	Unique Claims for Devices	Additional Devices	Avg. Cost per Device	Additional Device Costs
Prosthetics	486	25	\$2,993	\$74,825
Orthotics	3,590	180	\$141	\$25,380
<b>Total</b>	4,076	204	N/A	<b>\$100,205</b>

It should be noted that these estimates are significantly lower than those reported in a fiscal note for a similar bill (LC 52 0656 released February 17, 2025). The new estimate relies on additional information about the life span of orthotic and prosthetic devices, which suggests that a smaller number of additional devices would be needed.

The current cost estimates assume that the number of devices increases by 5% annually. Higher utilization would lead to higher costs. Also, the cost per device for SHBP are approximate and are higher than those reported by the USG health plan. If actual device costs differ from the fiscal note, the actual costs would be higher or lower.

Respectfully,



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State Auditor



Richard Dunn, Director  
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/mt