



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-First Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1381

Arizona medical board; supplemental appropriation

Purpose

Appropriates a blank amount from the Arizona Medical Board (AMB) Fund in FY 2014 to the AMB to contract with an in-state credentials verification service for health professions to review certain initial and renewal applications.

Background

In January 2012 an employee of the AMB filed a complaint with the Arizona Ombudsman-Citizens' Aide (AOCA) stating, among other allegations, that the AMB enacted expedited licensing procedures in September 2011 that violated state laws and did not support the AMB's mission. The AOCA investigated 20 issues detailing these allegations and found that the AMB ignored or violated many state laws and rules, and licensed potentially unqualified doctors from September 2011 to February 2013. The AOCA recommended, among other items:

- a) Given findings in ISSUES 1-16, the AMB needs to ascertain which applicants the agency approved in error and initiate processes to correct the errors.
- b) The Legislature determine whether the AMB's internal review is sufficient or whether an Auditor General audit would be appropriate to review AMB medical license applications approved between October 2011 and April 2013 to ascertain whether applicants with currently active licenses were properly documented and licensed in accordance with state law (AOEA – Report of Investigation, page 117).

There is no impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation, as the supplemental appropriation is made from the Arizona Medical Board Fund.

Provisions

1. Appropriates a blank amount from the Arizona Medical Board Fund in FY 2014 to the AMB to contract with an in-state credentials verification service for health professions to review all initial and renewal applications received by the Board from October 1, 2011 through _____.
2. Requires the AMB to contractually outline the components required for a completed application and authorize the contractor to request any necessary additional documentation from the licensee or application.
3. Exempts these contracts from requirements of the procurement code.

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4. Allows the AMB to also expend the appropriated monies in FY 2015.

5. Becomes effective on signature of the Governor.

Prepared by Senate Research

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