

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 1375                      Nurse Registries  
**SPONSOR(S):** Cannon and others  
**TIED BILLS:**                              **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/SB 474

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REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Health Care Regulation Committee		Hamrick	Mitchell
2) Health Care Appropriations Committee			
3) Health & Families Council			
4) _____			
5) _____			

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**SUMMARY ANALYSIS**

The bill requires a nurse registry to advise patients or their families that a registered nurse is available to visit the patient's home for an additional cost. Currently, s. 400.506(10), F.S., provides that nurse registries are required to send a registered nurse to perform a supervisory visit to the home of a patient receiving services from a certified nursing assistant or home health aide, to assess the quality of care provided. The bill would make the visit optional, contingent on the patient's willingness to pay for the service.

Currently, some nurse registries are absorbing the cost of the supervisory registered nurses' home visits and others are billing the patient for this service. The bill would reduce costs to these registries and make application of statute uniform among providers.

According to a survey conducted by the Associated Home Health Industries of Florida the average cost of a home visit by a registered nurse is \$29.80 per visit.

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2005.

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

This bill does not appear to implicate any of the House Principles.

#### B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill requires a nurse registry at the time of contracting for services performed by a certified nursing assistant or home health aide to advise patients or their families that a registered nurse is available to visit the patient's home for an additional cost. According to a survey conducted by the Associated Home Health Industries of Florida the average cost of a home visit by registered nurse is \$29.80 per visit.

Currently, nurse registries are required to send a registered nurse to perform a supervisory visit to the home of a patient receiving services from a certified nursing assistant or home health aide to assess the quality of care provided.<sup>1</sup>

#### NURSE REGISTRIES

Nurse registries provide skilled and personal care. Nurse registries are different from home health agencies in that they hire independent contractors that are registered nurses, certified nurse assistants (CNA), home health aides, licensed practical nurses, homemakers, or companions to provide services to patients in their homes. These individuals are not direct employees of the nurse registry, but are independent contractors. A patient contracts with a nurse registry and makes a direct contract with the individual contractor sent from the nurse registry.

A nurse registry is required to obtain the following information from the independent contractors they refer: name, address, date of birth, and social security number; educational background, and employment history; number and date of the applicable license or certification; and renewal information.

As of December 18, 2004 there were 2,218 licensed nurse registries in Florida.

#### C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

**Section 1.** Amends s. 400.506, F.S., requiring a nurse registry to provide information regarding additional visits by registered nurses and associated costs.

**Section 2.** Provides that the bill will take effect on July 1, 2005.

### II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

#### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

##### 1. Revenues:

None.

##### 2. Expenditures:

None.

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<sup>1</sup> See s. 400.506(10), F.S.

**B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:**

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

**C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:**

None.

**D. FISCAL COMMENTS:**

Currently, some nurse registries are absorbing the cost of the supervisory registered nurses' home visits and others are billing the patient for this service.

**III. COMMENTS**

**A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:**

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds. This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities. This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities have to raise revenue.

2. Other:

None.

**B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:**

None.

**C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:**

None.

**IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES**