

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Health Policy

BILL: CS/SB 1150

INTRODUCER: Commerce and Tourism Committee and Senator Bean

SUBJECT: Medical Tourism

DATE: March 20, 2014

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Askey</u>	<u>Hrdlicka</u>	<u>CM</u>	Fav/CS
2.	<u>Looke</u>	<u>Stovall</u>	<u>HP</u>	Pre-meeting
3.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1150 directs Enterprise Florida, Inc., (EFI) and the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation (Visit Florida) to promote medical tourism and market the state as a healthcare destination.

Visit Florida is required to include medical tourism in the 4-year marketing plan and showcase Florida providers. The bill also requires Visit Florida to create a matching grant program for local and regional economic development organizations to create targeted medical tourism marketing initiatives.

The bill allocates from the appropriation for Visit Florida in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) \$3.5 million annually for the development and implementation of the medical tourism marketing plan and \$1.5 million annually for the matching grant program.

II. Present Situation:

Medical Tourism

Medical tourism is a term used to describe the act of traveling to receive medical treatment. Traditionally, the term meant to travel across international boundaries but consumer travel across state lines, referred to as domestic medical tourism, has become more common. Medical tourism can include both sophisticated treatments, such as cardiac surgery and orthopedics, as well as

elective or routine procedures for dental care or cosmetic surgeries. The industry has “medical tourism facilitators” that market medical tourism “models” to consumers. These facilitators are comparable to travel agents and present legal uncertainties in the interaction between facilitators and providers.

Medical tourism occurs for a variety of reasons including the globalization of healthcare services and increases in geriatric populations in the United States and Europe. Consumer preference in medical care will depend on factors that a consumer normally applies when purchasing a good. These factors can include cost, income, substitutions, or complimentary goods. Due to the size and scope of the healthcare industry, there is no one “trend” in medical tourism.

A recent report by the National Institute for Health Research found that outward medical tourism¹ had increased in the United Kingdom while inward medical tourism² remained reasonably steady.³ The results from this report also highlighted several other factors that made general “trends” in medical tourism difficult to define. The report found that:

- Economic implications of medical tourism are not uniform;
- The medical tourism industry is almost entirely unregulated and there are potential risks to the consumer;
- Existing information is variable and there is no authoritative source of information;
- Medical tourists are a heterogeneous group of all ages and a range of socio-demographic groups;
- Tourists lack information and appear to make uninformed decisions without considering all associated risks;
- Tourists seem to make use of informal treatment-based or cultural networks to make their decisions;
- Patients are travelling to further or “new” markets in medical tourism; and
- Cost is never a sole motivator and often not the primary motivation for seeking treatment abroad.⁴

Additionally, the report concluded that more research was needed to:

- Better understand the health and social outcomes of treatment for those who travel for medical treatment;
- Generate more robust data that better capture the size and flows of medical tourism;
- Gather more information on patients including their origins, procedures, and outcomes;
- Allow for the development of better economic costing; and,
- Explore the issues of clinical relationships and networks.⁵

¹ Traveling from the UK to another country.

² Traveling from another country to the UK.

³National Institute for Health Research, *Implications for the NHS of inward and outward medical tourism; a policy and economic analysis using literature review and mixed-methods approaches* (February 2014), p. 28, available at: <http://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/hsdr/volume-2/issue-2> (Last visited Mar. 20, 2014).

⁴ *Id.* at pp. 115-119

⁵ *Id.* at pp. 119 and 120

Medical tourism can have political obstacles as well. While inward medical tourism is seen as an opportunity for economic growth, outward medical tourism has been criticized as an admission of domestic healthcare policy failure.⁶

Medical tourism is often presented as a way to lower costs for medical treatment. Cost savings is an incentive for some employers to adopt domestic medical tourism practices within the United States. Changes to healthcare law in the United States have brought medical treatment cost disparities into the spotlight. In May 2013, NPR reported on data released by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services on hospital charges for treatment of Medicare patients.⁷ NPR reported that there were large differences in the costs of the 100 most common treatments that require hospitalization. Differences occurred across states and hospitals miles from each other. The differences in cost ranged in multiples of 5 to 40. Similar reports produced supporting examples including a joint replacement procedure that cost \$297,000 at Centinela Hospital and \$84,000 at St. John's Health Center, two California hospitals about 12 miles apart.⁸ The reports suggest similar levels of disparity in costs to private insurers and uninsured patients.

Healthcare in Florida

Florida is the fourth largest state in terms of population with an estimated 19.5 million people. According to a report by the Wall Street Journal, Florida paid an average of \$7,156 per person on healthcare in 2009.⁹ The largest portions of that amount was spent on hospital care (\$2,207) and physician/clinical services (\$1,950). The U.S. average for the same time period was \$6,815 per person. In Florida there are currently licensed: 301 hospitals,¹⁰ 1,987 health care clinics,¹¹ 45,939 medical doctors, 10,445 dentists, 203,648 registered nurses, 20,850 pharmacists, and various other licensed practitioners totaling 863,270.¹²

Tourism in Florida

Visit Florida is the state's public/private partnership for tourism marketing. Enterprise Florida, Inc., contracts with Visit Florida to promote Florida as a tourist destination. EFI's Division of Tourism Marketing supports Visit Florida in its activities. Visit Florida is also required to adopt a 4-year tourism marketing plan.¹³ According to Visit Florida, tourism in Florida was responsible for 91.5 million tourists in 2012 who spent more than \$71.8 billion, generated 23 percent of the

⁶The Economist, *Médecine avec frontières: Why health care has failed to globalize* (February 15, 2014), available at: <http://www.economist.com/news/international/21596563-why-health-care-has-failed-globalise-m-decine-avec-fronti-res> (Last visited Mar. 20, 2014).

⁷NPR, *Government Data Reveals Wild Disparity in Health Care Costs* (May 8, 2013), available at: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=182337915> (Last visited March 20, 2014).

⁸Christian Science Monitor, *New report reveals stunning disparities in health-care costs* (May 8, 2013), available at: <http://www.csmonitor.com/Business/2013/0508/New-report-reveals-stunning-disparities-in-health-care-costs> (Last visited Mar. 20, 2014).

⁹The Wall Street Journal, *Health-Care Costs: A State-by-State Comparison* (April 8, 2013), available at: <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424127887323884304578328173966380066> (Last visited Mar. 20, 2014).

¹⁰Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, available at: <http://www.floridahealthfinder.gov/facilitylocator/ListFacilities.aspx> (Last visited Mar. 20, 2014).

¹¹*Id.*

¹²Florida Dept. of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance, *Annual Report and Long Range Plan: FY 2012-2013*, (Dec. 31, 2013).

¹³Section 288.923(4), F.S., sets forth the plan requirements.

state's sales tax revenue and employed more than one million Floridians.¹⁴ The Fiscal Year 2013-2014 General Appropriations Act appropriated over \$63 million to Visit Florida.¹⁵ Visit Florida raises matching funds from the private sector, and in 2012 raised more than \$108.6 million.¹⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 288.901, F.S., to direct EFI to market the state as a health care destination and to promote quality health care services in Florida.

Section 2 amends s. 288.923, F.S., to include the promotion of medical tourism as a part of Visit Florida's 4-year tourism marketing plan.

Section 3 creates s. 288.924, F.S., to set forth requirements for a medical tourism marketing plan and create a matching grant program to support local medical tourism marketing.

The bill requires Visit Florida to include specific initiatives to advance Florida as a healthcare destination within the 4-year marketing plan. The marketing plan must:

- Promote national and international awareness of the qualifications, scope of services, and specialized healthcare expertise of providers in Florida;
- Promote national and international awareness of medical conferences, training, and other business opportunities to attract medical practitioners to the state; and
- Include an initiative that showcases select qualified providers offering bundled healthcare packages and support services.

The showcased providers must be selected through a solicitation of proposals from licensed providers for plans. The plans should include available services, provider qualifications, logistic arrangements, and other services and amenities to be provided to patients and their families. Single proposals may include offers made through a network of providers.

Visit Florida shall assess the qualifications and credentials of providers submitting proposals. To the extent funding is available, all qualified providers must be selected to be showcased.

To be qualified for showcasing, a provider must:

- Ensure that all providers in a proposal have full, active, and unencumbered Florida licenses;
- Have accreditation that is not conditional or provisional from a nationally recognized accrediting body;
- Be recognized as a Cancer Center of Excellence¹⁷ or have a current national or international recognition in a specialty area; and,
- Meet other criteria established by Visit Florida in collaboration with the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Health.

¹⁴Visit Florida, available at: <http://www.visitflorida.com/en-us/about-visit-florida.html> (Last visited Mar. 20, 2014).

¹⁵ Fiscal Year 2013-14 General Appropriations Act, Line Item 2228, ch. 2013-40, L.O.F.

¹⁶Visit Florida, available at: <http://www.visitflorida.com/en-us/about-visit-florida.html> (Last visited Mar. 12, 2014).

¹⁷ Section 381.925, F.S.

Visit Florida is also required to create a matching grant program to provide funding to local or regional economic development organizations for targeted medical tourism marketing initiatives. The initiatives must promote Florida as a destination for healthcare services. Providers involved in the local initiative must meet the criteria specified for qualified providers in the showcase. The local or regional economic development organization must show an ability to involve a variety of businesses to collaboratively welcome and support patients and their families who travel to Florida for medical services. The cash or in-kind services available from the local or regional economic development board must be at least equal to the amount of state financial support.

The bill requires \$3.5 million of the funds appropriated in the GAA to Visit Florida to be allocated annually for the development and implementation of the medical tourism marketing plan. An additional \$1.5 million must be allocated annually for the matching grant program.

Section 4 provides an effective date of July 1, 2014.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

CS/SB 1150 may have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on the private sector medical and support industries that are being promoted under the provisions of the bill.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill requires that \$5 million be appropriated from the GAA for the programs established by the bill.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 288.901 and 288.923.

This bill creates section 288.924 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Committee on Commerce and Tourism on March 17, 2014:

The committee substitute requires that Visit Florida also include promoting medical conferences, training, and other business opportunities to attract medical practitioners to the state in the 4-year tourism marketing plan. The committee substitute removes the application deadline and requirement of equal division of funds related to the matching grant program.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.