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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 23-0471 Date: March 20, 2023
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Moreno; Will Bill Status: Senate Health & Human Services
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Bill Topic: DENTAL PLANS MEDICAL LOSS RATIO

- Summary of Fiscal Impact:
[X] State Revenue [] TABOR Refund
[X] State Expenditure [] Local Government
[X] State Diversion [] Statutory Public Entity

The bill allows the Division of Insurance to investigate dental plan carriers with lower than average dental loss ratios after two years of data collection. The bill increases state expenditures and may increase state revenue on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2023-24, the bill requires an appropriation of \$150,000 to the Department of Regulatory Agencies.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal reflects the introduced bill. The fiscal note is preliminary and will be updated if more information becomes available.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 23-179

Table with 4 columns: Category, Sub-category, Budget Year FY 2023-24, and Out Year FY 2024-25. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (Cash Funds, Total Expenditures), Diversion (General Fund, Cash Funds, Net Diversion), and Other Budget Impacts.

Summary of Legislation

The bill places disclosure requirements around dental loss ratios, which are the percentage of dental coverage premium dollars spent on services. After two years of data collection, the Commissioner of Insurance will promulgate rules to identify carriers that significantly deviate from the average dental loss ratio and may investigate or take enforcement action against these carriers.

State Revenue

The bill may increase state revenue beginning in FY 2023-24. It allows the Division of Insurance to impose a civil penalty against carriers who fail to comply with the reporting requirements or significantly deviate from the average dental loss ratio. This revenue is expected to be classified as a damage award and not subject to TABOR. Given the uncertainty about the number of cases that may be pursued, as well as the wide range in potential penalty amounts, the fiscal note cannot estimate the potential impact of these civil penalties.

State Diversions

This bill diverts \$150,000 from the General Fund in FY 2023-24 and \$50,000 in FY 2024-25. This revenue diversion occurs because the bill increases costs in the Department of Regulatory Agencies, Division of Insurance, which is funded with premium tax revenue that would otherwise be credited to the General Fund.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the Division of Insurance in the DORA by \$150,00 in FY 2023-24 and \$50,000 in FY 2024-25, paid from the DOI Cash fund. Expenditures are shown in Table 2 and detailed below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 23-179

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
Department of Regulatory Agencies		
Contractor Costs	\$150,000	\$50,000
Total Cost	\$150,000	\$50,000

Department of Regulatory Agencies

Dental loss ratio reporting. The fiscal note assumes that DOI will hire a contractor to collect data and find the average dental loss ratio and update the information annually. Workload will increase to establish rules for reporting requirements, to review reports received from carriers, and publish data. Additionally, the bill may increase workload if the division chooses to investigate and take enforcement action against the specified carriers. These workload increases are absorbable.

Legal services. The bill minimally increases legal service costs for the division, provided by the Department of Law, for general counsel and rulemaking support. This can be accomplished within existing appropriations. Legal services costs may also increase to support compliance efforts. If additional resources are required, they will be addressed through the annual budget process.

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

Workload will minimally increase in the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to update the All-Payer Health Claims Database. No appropriation is required.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2023-24, the bill requires an appropriation of \$150,000 from the Division of Insurance Cash Fund to the Department of Regulatory Agencies.

State and Local Government Contacts

Information Technology
Health Care Policy and Financing

Regulatory Agencies

Law