



Legislative  
Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

**HB 20-1041**

**FISCAL NOTE**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 20-0560  
**Prime Sponsors:** Rep. Cutter; McKean  
Sen. Fields

**Date:** January 24, 2020  
**Bill Status:** House Public Health  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Aaron Carpenter | 303-866-4918  
Aaron.Carpenter@state.co.us

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**Bill Topic:** **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

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**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This bill requires physician assistants who have practiced for at least three years to have the same financial responsibility as physicians. Starting in the current FY 2019-20, the bill will minimally increase state workload on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note Status:** This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

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### Summary of Legislation

Under current law, physician assistants are required to maintain professional liability insurance of at least \$1.0 million per claim and \$3.0 million for all claims. This bill repeals that requirement and requires that physician assistants who have been practicing for at least three years comply with the same financial responsibility requirements as physicians. This includes:

- having professional liability insurance coverage of at least \$1.0 million per incident and \$3.0 million annual aggregate per year;
- allowing the Medical Board to lower the financial requirements for physician assistants;
- mandating that physician assistants give the Medical Board evidence that they have met the requirements; and
- doubling the financial responsibility for any physician assistant that has committed medical malpractice twice in one year.

### State Expenditures

Starting in the current FY 2019-20, workload in the Medical Board in the Department of Regulatory Agencies will increase to update any rules and to conduct outreach on new requirements. Any increase in workload is assumed to be minimal.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

## State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education

Information Technology

Regulatory Agencies