

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 555** HLS 25RS 1037

Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 6, 2025	5:56 PM	Author: AMEED
Dept./Agy.: LA Dept. of Health		Analyst: Tamiko Stroud
Subject: Provides relative to medical intervention		

HEALTH/MEDICAL TREATMENT

OR SEE FISC NOTE SD RV

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Provides relative to medical intervention

The proposed law creates the LA Medical Freedom Act. The proposed amendment prohibits the questioning or interference in a person's right to refuse any medical intervention for self, their minor child, or anyone for whom holds authority as a tutor or curator. The proposed law prohibits state, local, parish government entities, and businesses from requiring persons to receive medical intervention under certain circumstances. The proposed law prohibits business entities from denying services, products, admission, or transportation due to a person's medical intervention status. The proposed law prohibits businesses or governmental entities from requiring a person to wear a face mask and denying access to products or services if a person refuses to wear face mask. The proposed law does not include healthcare providers defined in R.S. 40:1223.3, when face masks are required safety equipment consistent with occupational or laboratory safety requirements. The proposed law requires a government or business entity that violates these provisions to be liable for statutory damages not less than \$5,000 per violation.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	SEE BELOW					
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total						

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) reports that proposed legislation could potentially result in a loss of \$186 M in federal revenue as a result of a federal rule, "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Omnibus COVID-19 Healthcare Staff Vaccination" (86 FR 61555), which requires the medical intervention of employees for five (5) LDH Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) certified facilities, and will require state general fund to recover lost funds. However, CMS does not currently require CMS-certified facilities to mandate a medical intervention as a condition of employment for their staff. The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) does not anticipate the proposed legislation to impact state expenditures of LDH.

The federal rule that mandated the medical intervention of healthcare employees participating in Medicare and Medicaid programs was repealed by CMS with "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Policy and Regulatory Changes to the Omnibus COVID-19 Healthcare Staff Vaccination Requirements" (88 FR 36485). Therefore, the department will not experience a loss in revenue under current circumstances.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

The proposed amendment can potentially result in a revenue increase to the LA Department of Health of \$5,000 per violation in the event business or government entities violate provisions of this measure. The exact amount in revenue will depend on the number of violations of denying services, products, admission, or transportation due to a person's medical intervention status, requiring a person to wear a face mask, and denying access to products or services if a person refuses to wear a face mask committed by each entity. The amount of revenue generated from imposed penalties is indeterminable.

Senate

Dual Referral Rules

House

13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}

6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}

13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer