

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5903

As Passed Senate, March 14, 2001

Title: An act relating to increasing the license surcharge for the impaired physician program.

Brief Description: Changing physician license fees.

Sponsors: Senators Winsley, Franklin, Costa and Thibaudeau.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 2/19/01 [DP].

Passed Senate: 3/14/01, 44-5.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Thibaudeau, Chair; Franklin, Vice Chair; Costa, Deccio, Fraser, Parlette and Winsley.

Staff: Joan K. Mell (786-7447)

Background: Medical physicians are licensed by the state through the Department of Health. A special account exists for the impaired physician program, which serves physicians experiencing substance abuse problems. This account is funded through a surcharge on the physician's licensing fee. Currently the surcharge is \$25.

Summary of Bill: The surcharge to fund the impaired physician account is changed to not less than \$25 and not more than \$35.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 15, 2001.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Increased fees are needed to add services for the stress impaired physician in addition to services currently provided for physicians impaired by substance abuse.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Carl Nelson, WSMA (pro).