

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2558  
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Health & Human Services  
5/9/2001  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Currently, certain information about physicians, including a doctor's educational background, the number of years certified, any nationally-recognized specialty certifications, criminal history, and paid malpractice claims is being assembled by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners (board) and is to be made available to consumers on the Internet. The 76th Texas Legislature instructed the board to raise the fee by \$20 to pay for this technology. However, in the 2002-2003 biennium, the board is required to reduce the fee by \$10. Early estimations of the cost of profile maintenance have proven to be too low, and the current fee is necessary to pay the costs of maintaining the physician profiling system. H.B. 2558 provides that the current fee of \$20 is retained.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 153.051(b), Occupations Code, to prohibit the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners from adjusting a fee established on or before August 31, 2001, rather than September 1, 1993, to an amount less than the amount of the fee on August 31, 2001, rather than September 1, 1993.

SECTION 2. Repealer: Section 4(d), Chapter 645, Acts of the 76th Legislature, Regular Session, 1999.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.