

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2019
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB25

Hearing Date: Wednesday January 30, 2019
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Kolterman
One Liner: Provide for additional fees under the Uniform Credentialing Act and create the Patient Safety Cash Fund

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 7 Senators Arch, Cavanaugh, Hansen, B., Howard, Murman, Walz, Williams

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Mark Kolterman
Katherine Jones
Dr. Britt Thedinger
Michelle Weber

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Coalition for Patient Safety
Nebraska Medical Association
Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 25 establishes a new credentialing fee - a "patient safety fee" - for physicians, osteopathic physicians, and physician assistants and creates the Patient Safety Cash Fund to which the proceeds from this new fee will be distributed.

Regular fees are mandated under the Uniform Credentialing Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-151 to 38-155.) Section 1 of LB 25 would create a new patient safety fee of \$50 for the initial issuance or renewal of a credential to practice as a physician or osteopathic physician. (Page 2, lines 30-31 and Page 3, lines 1-2.) Similarly, physician assistants must pay a patient safety fee of \$20. (Page 3, lines 3-6.) The fees will be collected biennially with the initial credentialing or renewal of a credential. (Page 3, lines 5-6.)

The revenue from the patient safety fee will be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Patient Safety Cash Fund. (Sec. 1, Page 3, lines 6-7.) The fee is sunset on January 1, 2026 under Section 1 of LB 25.

Section 3 of LB 25 creates the Patient Safety Cash Fund. The Cash Fund is to be used solely to support the activities of a patient safety organization organized under the Patient Safety Improvement Act. (Page 3, lines 14-16.) LB 25 directs that any money in the Patient Safety Cash Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. (Page 3, lines 16-18.)

This act becomes effective January 1, 2020.

Sara Howard, Chairperson