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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

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Office

**S.B. 81**  
**(with AM1786)**  
**135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for S.B. 81's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** In House Health Provider Services

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Romanchuk

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

Suveksha Bhujel, Economist, and other LBO staff

### **Highlights**

- Government-owned hospitals may experience minimal costs to update policies to allow physician assistants to sign documents related to the admission, treatment, or discharge of a patient.

### **Detailed Analysis**

#### **Signature authorization**

The bill authorizes physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who are clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, or certified nurse practitioners to sign documents relating to the admission, treatment, or discharge of a patient if certain conditions are met. These conditions include that the supervising or collaborating physician authorizes the practitioner to sign documents. Additionally, for physician assistants, the hospital policies must allow physician assistants to sign the documents. In the case of APRNs, the nurse's standard care arrangement with the collaborating physician should specify in writing that the nurse is authorized to sign documents. The documents authorized to be signed may include a treatment plan or medication order that is a part of the treatment plan. In the case of physician assistants, the bill permits the signing of documents related to hospital patients. For APRNs, this authority applies to documents related to psychiatric or behavioral health facility inpatients. The bill specifies that the supervising or collaborating physician are not subject to civil liability for injury, death, or loss to person or property that arises from the physician assistant or APRN signing the document.

Government-owned hospitals could realize minimal costs to update policies to allow physician assistants to sign these documents. However, if these policies are put into place, it is possible that there might be an increase in access to care or services rendered at the facility. The

State Medical Board of Ohio regulates physician assistants and the Ohio Board of Nursing regulates APRNs. If any rules need to be updated to allow these practitioners to perform these duties, there could be minimal rule promulgation costs. Any of these costs would be absorbed with existing resources.

## **Insurance navigators**

The bill modifies the current requirements related to insurance navigator certification and accepting compensation from insurers. The bill specifies that an individual or entity that accepts any financial compensation in connection with the enrollment of any employees or other individuals in a qualified health benefit plan from an insurer offering a qualified health benefit plan through an exchange operating in the state is ineligible to be certified as an insurance navigator. Under existing law, an individual or entity that accepts any financial compensation from such insurer, irrespective of whether it is in connection with such enrollment, is ineligible to be an insurance navigator. The provision would conform Ohio's insurance navigator requirements to the federal law. The provision has no direct fiscal effect on the state or local governments.