

Senate Health and Welfare Committee,

Provided to you is the forecasts if HB 935 passes merging the Board of Denturistry into the Board of Dentistry. The Board of Dentistry's cash balance (\$1,766,723.50) is above the statutory limit and as such the Division is actively working to lower it through a fee holiday which waives all renewal fees for licensees. In addition to this, during this legislative session, the Legislature approved a permanent fee decrease that will further help this board get within its statutory allowed cash balance, of 30-150% of the Boards 5-year average rolling of expenditures once the fee holiday is no longer in place. If the Board of Dentistry absorbs the Board of Denturistry's negative cash balance of \$-9.832.33 (-37%) there will be no significant effect on the Board of Dentistry's financial situation.

If no merger is to take place, the Board of Denturistry will have to increase their fees by at least \$225 in order to comply with statute. This would be the most expensive proposed fee increase since the inception of DOPL, raising annual licensing costs to almost \$1,000 to be a denturist. Currently, denturists have the highest licensing fee at the Division, with an annual licensing cost of \$750. Below is a breakdown of other Boards licensing fees.

Renewal Fees (Renewal fees account for about 95% of licensing fees for Boards):

Denturist: \$750

Dentist: \$280 (Fee Holiday currently)

Physician: \$160

Psychologist: \$250

Pharmacist: \$130

Nurse: \$70

Physical Therapist: \$25

Occupational Therapist: \$80

Physician Assistants: \$42

Veterinarian: \$140

Optometrist: \$75

When the Board of Midwifery was merged into the Board of Nursing, the Midwives saw their licensing fees go from \$850 annually to \$35 annually. If the merger is successful, we would expect to see a similar benefit with a potential decrease in the licensing fees of denturists to under \$100.