

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB1224</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>INT</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>10565</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. West (Kevin)</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>2/20/2025</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Research Analysis**

HB 1224, as introduced, provides that a health care institution or payor may not be required to participate in or pay for a service that violates their conscience, including permitting the use of its facilities. A health care payor must list any health care service that it may refuse to pay for on the basis of conscience. Refusal to participate in or pay for a health care service may not give rise to liability or be the basis of discrimination. Nothing in this section may be construed to relieve a health care institution of the requirement to provide emergency medical treatment to all patients. The measure provides that a religious medical practitioner, health care institution, or health care payor will have the right to make employment, staffing, contracting, and admitting privilege decisions consistent with its religious beliefs. A health care institution may require the exercise of conscience as a basis for nonparticipation to be made in writing. The exercise of conscience not to participate in a health care service may not be grounds for loss of any privileges or immunities or for the loss of any public benefits. A medical practitioner or health care institution may not be discriminated against because of any evidence disclosed or testimony. Persons are not exempt from any confidentiality and patient privacy requirements. A professional licensing board may not reprimand, sanction, or revoke or threaten to revoke a license, certificate, or registration of a medical practitioner for engaging in free speech unless clear and convincing evidence of physical harm is found. Within 14 days of a complaint, the practitioner will receive a copy of the complaint. Fees will be administered for failure to comply. It is unlawful to interfere or attempt to interfere with the right not to participate in a health care service or the whistle bower and free speech rights and protections authorized by this act. The Insurance Commission will promulgate rules concerning the implementation of this act. This act is supplemental and does not modify or limit the Freedom of Conscience Act.

Prepared By: Suzie Nahach, House Research Staff

**Fiscal Analysis**

HB 1224 allows medical professionals to refuse certain health care services if it conflicts with their moral or religious beliefs. In its current form, HB 1224 is not anticipated to have an impact on the state budget or appropriations.

Prepared By: Alexandra Ladner, House Fiscal Staff

**Other Considerations**

None.

