

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 959
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Author:	Sen. McIntosh
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Bill Analysis

SB 959 provides that health care institutions, medical practitioners, and health care payors may not be required to participate in or pay for a health care service that violates the entity's conscience. Refusal to provide service shall not give rise to liability for the health care institution or health care payor for damages allegedly arising from the refusal, unless such services are classified as emergency medical treatment. Such immunity does not apply to an institution or payor owned by the state or a political subdivision. Such persons and entities may not be discriminated against because they provided information relating to a suspected violation of this measure. Licensing boards shall not revoke or suspend the license of a practitioner for engaging in speech or expressive activity protected under the First Amendment unless the board demonstrates beyond a reasonable doubt that the medical practitioner's speech was the direct cause of physical harm to a person with whom the medical practitioner had a practitioner-patient relationship within the 3 years immediately preceding the incident of physical harm. The measure establishes a \$500.00 fee for the board to pay to the practitioner for each day of noncompliance.

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