

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 52nd Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 487
Version:	CCS
Author:	Sen. Paddack/Rep. Cox
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Bill Summary

Research Analyst: Marcia Goff

Conference Committee Substitute for SB 487 adds “community health care provider” to the list of terms used in the Governmental Tort Claims Act and authorizes the State Department of Health to enter into agreements with such providers. The measure also authorizes structured settlements under the Governmental Tort Claims Act.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: Mark Newman

The CCS for SB 487 amends the "The Governmental Tort Claims Act," by allowing volunteer health care providers serving at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or an FQHC Look-Alike to be under The Governmental Tort Claims Act as a charitable health care provider. This legislation also allows the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) to enter into agreements with community health care providers where the provider stipulates that they will provide services without compensation, although the facility may assess a sliding scale co-pay fee. Community health care providers entering into such agreements with OSDH shall be under The Governmental Tort Claims Act.

The CCS for SB 487 also amends the Volunteer Professional Services Immunity Act by covering volunteer professionals and any organization that arranges for the care given by the volunteer professionals and adds physician assistants, nurses, dentists, optometrists, or pharmacists.

The CCS for SB 487 further amends Title 51, Section 158 by allowing the state or a political subdivision settling a claim or suit to have a settlement payout structured in a manner agreed to by all the parties involved in the claim or suit.

Fiscal Analysis

Based on information provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), the CCS for SB 487 will have no impact on appropriated funds. OSDH currently administers the programs for FQHCs and the charitable health care providers and does not anticipate needing additional personnel or funds to implement these changes. The manner by which a settlement is paid will not have a fiscal impact on the total amount of the settlement, but may have an impact on certain specific fiscal years.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

None

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed By:

Janice Buchanan

House Fiscal Director