

Summary of Request:

The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) will be required to complete a Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Staff is presenting a list of exceptional items that will be formalized into the LAR.

Historical Perspective:

Every two years, the Texas Legislature convenes to consider a biennial budget. Each agency prepares an LAR and testifies before the House Appropriation and Senate Finance Committees. The deadline for the 2022/2023 LAR most likely will be sometime in July of this year.

The legislative items have been prioritized by Board staff. If the item is granted by the Texas Legislature, it will require the agency to raise sufficient funds to cover the cost of the item and overhead.

Pros and Cons:

Pros - Receiving additional funding and resources will allow the BON to complete the impending move to the new office building in the summer of 2022 and complete the migration of agency programs to cloud based technology.

Cons - The cost of the exceptional items could increase licensure fees.

Staff Recommendation:

Board Action: Move to accept the staff recommendations for the list of LAR prioritized exceptional items for the 2022 and 2023 Legislative Appropriations Request which include the current 2020/2021 base funding.

Exceptional Items
Legislative Appropriations Request
Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023

1. Moving Costs

The Texas Board of Nursing will be moving to the George H. W. Bush State Office Building in the summer of 2022. The agency will be responsible for the following costs:

- Telecom cabling & equipment and installation, data room, switches, racks, cabinets & equipment
- Security controls within tenant space
- Loose furniture, chairs, computer workstations
- Conference room furniture, equipment, whiteboards and AV equipment
- Signage and wayfinding within tenant space
- Special lighting and displays
- Window treatments on interior glass
- Upgrades to items provided in basic finish-out
- Millwork (Built-ins and Cabinets)
- Moving expenses & coordination

Implication for the 2022-2023 Biennium

The agency will meet with the Texas Facilities Commission and the Department of Information Resources for costs associated with the items above. The agency will also develop a contingency plan for moving existing furniture and computers if not allowed to purchase new furniture for the new office.

2. Information Technology

- Hardware
 - Conference Room Computer Screens
 - Laptops
 - Scanners
- Software
 - Webinar Platform Software
 - Live Stream
 - Laserfiche
 - Office 365

Implications for the 2022 - 2023 Biennium

With the move to the new office, the agency would like to move existing software programs to a cloud environment as well as purchase conference room computer screens for agency meetings, scanners to move all paper documents to an electronic imaging system and meeting software to allow constituents to attend agency meetings virtually and remotely. The cost for the biennium would be \$396,000.

3. Retirement Contingency Rider

The agency anticipates a number of retirements in the next biennium. By law, when a staff member leaves the agency whether by retirement or resignation, the agency must pay for the annual leave (vacation) balance. The agency has four positions that have the maximum number of annual leave hours and if one or all retire, the agency would be liable to pay a lump sum within thirty days after their retirement. Without this contingency rider, the agency would have to pull these funds from other strategies.

Implication for the 2022-2023 Biennium

Based on the agency salaries for these four staff members, the maximum lump sum payout if all four retire from the agency would be \$153,642.

4. Executive Directory Salary

The Board is will be requesting that the salary of the Executive Director be set by the Board within salary group five of the Schedule of Exempt Positions in the State's Position Classification Plan.

Implication for the 2022-2023 Biennium

The Total Cost to increase the Executive Director Salary would be absorbed in the budget.

Implication to Agency Fees

The agency is required to raise \$28,866,259 for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 within the current fee structure. We estimate that by August 31, 2021 we will exceed that requirement by \$1,000,000. Provided that we continue the growth of RNs and APRNs in fiscal years 2022 and 2023, we anticipate an additional \$500,000 without raising fees.

Without raising fees, the agency could absorb any additional costs due to the office move, information technology cost, retirement lump sum payments and executive director salary.