

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 546 (Delegate Valderrama)

Environmental Matters

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**Meridian Regulatory Acupuncture - Physicians**

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This bill requires that any physician who practices “meridian regulatory acupuncture” be registered with the Board of Physician Quality Assurance (BPQA).

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund revenues increase by \$1,800 from registration fees in FY 2001. Future year revenues reflect new registration application fees. Expenditures would not be affected.

| (in dollars)    | FY 2001 | FY 2002 | FY 2003 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| SF Revenues     | \$1,800 | \$300   | \$300   | \$300   | \$300   |
| SF Expenditures | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |
| Net Effect      | \$1,800 | \$300   | \$300   | \$300   | \$300   |

*Note: ( ) = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - =indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal. Physicians who are also small businesses may register and subsequently advertise that they perform meridian regulatory acupuncture, and may potentially gain new patients.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill defines meridian regulatory acupuncture to mean a modern, simplified, scientific system of therapy that employs a microsensitive device restoring balance of energy in meridians. It also defines “meridian” to mean an invisible pathway or channel distributed throughout the body where acupuncture points are located. The bill allows the BPQA to suspend or revoke a physician’s registration or place a physician on probation for engaging in any conduct prohibited by law, failing to comply with the Centers for Disease Control guidelines on universal precautions, or failing to display the CDC’s guidelines as required.

**Current Law:** Physicians who practice acupuncture must be registered by the BPQA.

**State Fiscal Effect:** Currently, there are 125 physicians registered to perform acupuncture. It is estimated that 12 (or 10%) of these physicians will register to perform meridian acupuncture. Because the BPQA intends to charge a \$150 one-time registration fee for physicians applying to practice meridian acupuncture, special fund revenues could increase by \$1,800 in fiscal 2001. Future year revenues reflect two additional applicants annually. Current law requires that BPQA registration revenues are to be distributed: (1) 86% to the BPQA fund (special funds); and (2) 14% to the State Scholarship Administration (special funds). Expenditures would not be affected.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Physician Quality Assurance), Department of Legislative Services

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