

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 746 (Delegate Griffith. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

**Mental Hygiene - Involuntary Admission and Emergency Evaluation - Clinical
Social Worker**

This bill authorizes a clinical social worker, in conjunction with a physician, to issue a certificate for involuntary admission of an individual to a facility or hospital. The bill also allows a clinical social worker to file a petition for emergency evaluation of an individual for involuntary admission.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Expanding the list of medical personnel allowed to issue certificates for involuntary admission and to file a petition for an emergency evaluation would not substantively affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Valid applications for involuntary admission to a facility or hospital must be in the required form, contain specific information, and must be accompanied by the certificates of either one physician and one psychologist, or two physicians, and must be based on the medical examination conducted by a physician or psychologist. The filing of a petition for an emergency evaluation may be made by a physician, a psychologist, or a health officer or designee of a health officer. Associated duties and restrictions are not extended to the participation of a clinical social worker.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2000

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