

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 576

(Senator Zirkin)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

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**Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioners - Certification Requirement -  
Extension**

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This bill delays the date by which a residential child and youth care practitioner must be certified by the State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals from October 1, 2013 to October 1, 2015.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Projected general fund revenues and expenditures to begin to implement certification of residential child care practitioners for FY 2011, 2012, and 2013 are delayed until at least FY 2014. Any projected effect of certification on State reimbursement rates for residential child care providers is also delayed until at least FY 2014 or FY 2015.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful for practitioners who are allowed to continue to practice without certification for two more years.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Chapter 218 of 2008 expanded the purview of the State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Administrators to include the certification of residential child and youth care practitioners and renamed the board accordingly. Practitioners must be certified by the board no later than October 1, 2013.

This requirement applies to practitioners employed by programs licensed by the departments of Health and Mental Hygiene, Human Resources, and Juvenile Services and

subject to the Governor's Office for Children's licensing regulations; this requirement does not apply to programs licensed by the Developmental Disabilities Administration. Only those certified by the board are permitted to use the title "residential child and youth care practitioner" or otherwise present themselves as authorized to provide these services.

**Background:** The fiscal and policy note for Chapter 218 of 2008 indicated that the board would need additional staff to certify this new category of practitioners. However, to date, the board has not received any additional staff and has not begun certifying these practitioners.

The board reports that, for a variety of reasons, including a lack of training and workforce availability, the industry has requested the certification delay, and the board has agreed to such a delay.

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### **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 - March 9, 2010  
mlm/mcr

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