

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 378

(Delegate Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Board of Nursing - Medication Technician Graduates and Certified
Medication Technicians

This emergency bill extends the time period from 90 to 180 days during which a medication technician graduate can practice without certification from the State Board of Nursing. Certain medication technicians may also practice for up to 180 days while the board processes their renewal application. The board, by December 31, 2011, must report to specified committees of the General Assembly on the status of the online program for processing medication technician applications, the measures implemented to encourage the use of online applications, and an analysis of current staffing and projected staffing needs.

The bill terminates two years from the date it is enacted.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's reporting requirement can be handled with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An applicant for a medication technician certificate must be of good moral character, be at least 18 years of age, successfully complete an approved course in medication administration or a portion of an approved nursing education program, and

submit a specified application and fee to the board. Applicants may not have committed any act of omission that would be grounds for discipline or denial of certification nor have a record of abuse, negligence, misappropriation of a resident's property, or any disciplinary action taken or pending in another jurisdiction. Chapter 653 of 2008 prohibits a medication technician graduate from practicing more than 90 days from the date of completing a medication technician training program without board certification.

A medication technician may renew a certificate if he or she (1) is otherwise entitled to be certified; (2) submits a renewal application; (3) pays the renewal fee; (4) every two years, provides satisfactory evidence of completion of a board-approved clinical refresher course; and (5) provides satisfactory evidence of completion of 100 hours of practice as a certified medication technician within the two-year period preceding the date of renewal.

The board may grant a 30-day extension, beyond a certificate's expiration date, to a certificate holder so that the certificate holder may renew the certificate before it expires or two 90-day extensions pending receipt of criminal history record information.

Background: The State Board of Nursing began certifying medication technicians in 2004. Since fiscal 2005, the number of medication technicians certified by the board has increased by 92%. In fiscal 2010, the board certified 62,744 medication technicians.

When an applicant for an initial or renewal medication technician certificate submits an incomplete application or a backlog in certificate applications occurs, processing of certificates can take longer than 90 days. The bill allows individuals who have completed the required training requirements to practice for up to 180 days while awaiting issuance of their initial or renewal certificate.

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 14, 2011
mlm/ljm Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 2011

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