

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 998

(Delegate Hill, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Board of Physicians - Physician Licensing Reciprocity

This bill requires the State Board of Physicians (MBP) to license an applicant to practice medicine in Maryland if the applicant (1) became licensed as a physician in another jurisdiction under requirements substantially equivalent to Maryland licensing requirements, as determined by MBP; (2) is in good standing under the laws of the other jurisdiction; (3) submits the appropriate application to MBP; (4) pays the application fee set by MBP; and (5) the jurisdiction in which the applicant is licensed offers a similar reciprocal licensing process for individuals who are licensed to practice medicine in Maryland. MBP must adopt regulations to implement these requirements.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MBP can handle the bill's requirements with existing resources. Special fund revenues increase minimally to the extent out-of-state physicians apply for licensure by reciprocity in Maryland and are subject to fees, as set by MBP.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Out-of-state physicians may obtain licensure via reciprocity to practice in Maryland.

Analysis

Current Law: In Maryland, an individual must be licensed by MBP to practice medicine in the State. Pursuant to Chapter 34 of 2015, an individual must also submit to a criminal history records check (CHRC) as a qualification for licensure.

A physician licensed by and residing in another jurisdiction is exempt from State licensing requirements if the physician submits to a CHRC and is (1) consulting with a State licensed physician about a particular patient and does not direct patient care or (2) engaged in clinical training with a licensed physician under specified circumstances. Additionally, a physician who resides in and is authorized to practice medicine by any state adjoining Maryland and whose practice extends into Maryland is exempt from State licensing requirements if the physician submits to a CHRC and (1) the physician does not have an office or other regularly appointed place in Maryland to meet patients and (2) the same privileges are extended to licensed Maryland physicians by the adjoining state.

Several health occupations boards either offer licensure by reciprocity or are authorized to waive certain licensure requirements (such as examinations) to individuals who are licensed in another state with licensure requirements that are substantially equivalent to those in Maryland.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 1020 (Senator Pugh) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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