

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled

Senate Bill 989

(Senators Nathan-Pulliam and Mathias)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

State Board of Physicians - Physician Licensure - Prohibition on Requiring
Specialty Certification

This bill prohibits the State Board of Physicians (MBP) from requiring, as a qualification for initial licensure or a condition of license renewal, (1) certification by a nationally recognized accrediting organization that specializes in a specific area of medicine or (2) maintenance of such certification that includes continuous reexamination to measure core competencies as a requirement for maintaining certification.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The mission of MBP is to assure quality health care in Maryland through the efficient licensure and effective discipline of health providers under its jurisdiction, by protecting and educating clients/customers and stakeholders, and enforcing the Maryland Medical Practice Act.

In order to apply for an initial license to practice medicine or to renew or reinstate a license, an individual must submit the appropriate application to MBP and pay the associated fee. In order to renew or reinstate a license, an individual must also attest to satisfactory completion of continuing medical education requirements, as set by MBP. Additionally,

pursuant to Chapter 34 of 2015, an applicant for initial licensure and a licensee applying for renewal or reinstatement must also submit to a criminal history records check (CHRC). MBP may deny an initial license or refuse to renew or reinstate a license if the individual fails to submit to a required CHRC or for any of the reasons that are grounds for discipline under statute.

To qualify for an initial license to practice medicine, an applicant must (1) be of good moral character; (2) be at least 18 years of age; (3) have a degree of doctor of medicine or a degree of doctor of osteopathy and submit evidence of completion of one year of postgraduate medical training; and (3) pass an examination, as required by MBP. An applicant who passes the examination after having failed three or more times may only qualify for an initial license if the applicant (1) has completed two or more years of residency or fellowship that is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association; (2) has completed five years of specified clinical practice of medicine and has had no disciplinary action and does not have any pending disciplinary action; or (3) is board certified.

“Board certified” means the physician is certified by a public or private board, including a multidisciplinary board, and the certifying board (1) is a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties, is an American Osteopathic Association certifying board, is the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or is the College of Family Physicians of Canada; (2) has been approved by MBP; or (3) requires that the physician complete specified postgraduate training programs and be certified by one of the aforementioned boards.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1054 (Delegate West, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

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

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