

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1440 (Delegate Branch, et al.)  
Environmental Matters

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Nursing Assistants - Training and Certification

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This bill requires specified training and certification for “nursing assistants.” The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene is required to adopt regulations providing for the evaluation and certification of nursing assistants, including the establishment of a registry for that occupation.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by \$78,400 in FY 1997. Future years reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	78,400	92,600	95,600	98,800	102,000
Net Effect	(\$78,400)	(\$92,600)	(\$95,600)	(\$98,800)	(\$102,000)

Note: ( ) - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

**Local Effect:** None.

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Fiscal Analysis

**Background:** The Licensing and Certification Administration (LCA) of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) currently has similar certification and registry requirements for approximately 23,000 geriatric nursing assistants working in nursing homes. The LCA estimates that there could be at least another 25,000 uncertified assistants at work in hospitals, hospices, home health agencies, and other related facilities. It is known, for instance, that Mercy Hospital in Baltimore City, an average sized facility, has 285 beds and approximately 300 nursing assistants.

**State Revenues:** No effect. The fees that geriatric nursing assistants pay for certification and registration are paid to a private sector contractor under an ongoing contractual arrangement with the department. While DHMH maintains the registry of certified geriatric nursing assistants, the State derives no revenue from either the certification of these assistants or the maintenance of the existing registry. The LCA anticipates having the same arrangement for the nursing assistants covered by this bill.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$78,442 in fiscal 1997, which reflects the bill's October 1, 1996 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring a Health Facilities Survey Nurse and an Office Secretary to perform the coordination, direct contact, and investigatory functions related to the certification and registration of an additional 25,000 nursing assistants at health care facilities statewide. It includes salaries of \$34,644, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$48,170
Phone, postage - Operation	18,900
Equipment	9,220
Operating Expenses	<u>2,152</u>
<b>Total FY 1997 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$78,442</b>

Future year expenditures reflect (1) full salaries with 3.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 2% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Licensing and Certification Administration), Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 18, 1996

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