

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1323 (Delegate Hammen, *et al.*)
Environmental Matters

Health Occupations - Physician Assistants - Medication Orders

This bill authorizes a certified physician assistant to write medication orders under an approved job description subject to the limitations specified in the bill. Each medication order written by a physician assistant must be countersigned by a supervising physician within a specified time frame. A physician is prohibited from delegating the responsibility of writing medication orders to a physician assistant student. The Board of Physician Quality Assurance is authorized to adopt regulations relating to these provisions. The board must provide a list of physician assistants authorized to write medication orders and the type of medication orders they are authorized to write to: (1) each pharmacy located in or designated by a hospital, health care facility, detention center, or correctional facility; and (2) the Board of Pharmacy. After October 1, 2003, an applicant for a physician assistant certificate must have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues for the Board of Physician Quality Assurance Fund and the State Scholarship Administration (SSA) would increase by an estimated \$28,200 and general fund revenues would increase by \$1,800 in FY 1998. Special fund expenditures would increase by \$1,100 in FY 1998. Future year revenues and expenditures reflect a decline in the number of new applicants.

(in dollars)	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
GF Revenues	\$1,800	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
SF Revenues	28,200	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700
SF Expenditures	1,100	300	300	300	300
Net Effect	\$28,900	\$4,700	\$4,700	\$4,700	\$4,700

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: No impact on small businesses. This action governs hospitals, health care facilities, detention centers, or correctional facilities, which are not small businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: Regulations promulgated by the Board of Physician Quality Assurance that authorize physician assistants to write medication orders will expire on October 1, 1997. This bill provides statutory authority for the board to continue to authorize physician assistants to write medication orders.

It is anticipated that an application processing fee of \$100 will be charged. As a result, total revenues from fees would increase by approximately \$30,000 in fiscal 1998, of which \$24,000 is distributed to the board, \$4,200 is distributed to the State Scholarship Administration, and \$1,800 is distributed to the general fund. The estimate assumes there would be 300 applications from physician assistants to write medication orders.

In addition, revenues may increase if the board imposes a fine on physician assistants who are authorized to write medication orders if they fail to report address or name changes to the board. The extent of the increase in revenues would depend on the number of fines imposed.

Administrative expenses for the board would increase by \$1,100 in fiscal 1998 for printing and postage. Future year revenues and expenditures assume 50 new applications each year.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Physician Quality Assurance), Department of Fiscal Services

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Analysis by: Lina Walker
Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 841-3710
(301) 858-3710