

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 764 (Senators Middleton and Amoss)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Referred to Environmental Matters

Emergency Medical Services - Licensure of Providers - Transfer of Authority

This amended bill transfers the authority of the Board of Physician Quality Assurance (BPQA) to certify and oversee advanced life support emergency medical services providers to the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board. The bill clarifies the EMS board's authority to continue to oversee the practice of non-advanced life support emergency medical provider services. It establishes an EMS Board Provider Fund into which will be distributed the licensing and certification fees collected by the EMS board. The fund is to be used to fund the regulatory costs that the EMS board incurs in licensing and certifying all basic and advanced life support emergency medical services providers. The bill also authorizes the EMS board to adopt regulations by December 31, 1998, establishes a program for the training and licensure of emergency medical dispatchers, and prohibits the board from charging a licensure or certification fee for individuals who are either volunteers or government employees.

The bill takes effect December 31, 1998, with the exception that the provisions authorizing the board to adopt regulations and extending immunity from civil liability for all emergency services providers take effect July 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal special fund revenue increase for the EMS board beginning halfway through FY 1999. Special fund revenues accruing to the Board of Physician Quality Assurance, the State Scholarship Administration, and general fund revenues would decrease by a minimal amount, beginning halfway through FY 1999. Expenditures would not be affected.

Local Effect: Potential minimal effect on expenditures, as discussed below.

Small Business Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect small businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) is directed by the Emergency Medical Services Board.

Advanced life support emergency medical services providers includes cardiac rescue technicians (CRT) and emergency medical technicians-paramedics (EMT-P). The EMS board already oversees non-advanced life support emergency medical provider services [emergency medical technicians-basic (EMT-B), emergency medical technicians-ambulance (EMT-A), and First Responders]. There were 1,010 CRTs, 1,337 EMT-Ps, 15,738 EMT-As, and 14,700 First Responders in Maryland in fiscal 1996.

State Revenues:

Certification of Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Services Providers

The advanced life support provider certification fee revenues now collected by the BPQA would be collected by the EMS board. The BPQA collects \$8,640 in revenues annually, reflecting (1) 576 annual certifications; and (2) a \$15 fee. The BPQA revenues have been allocated 80% (\$6,912) to the BPQA Fund, 6% (\$518) to the State general fund, and 14% (\$1,210) to the State Scholarship Administration. Under the bill's provisions, all advanced life support provider certification fee revenues would accrue to the EMS Board Provider Fund, beginning halfway through fiscal 1999. Since the bill prohibits the board from charging a licensure or certification fee for individuals who are either volunteers or government employees, the advanced life support provider certification fee revenues accruing to the EMS Board Provider Fund would decrease significantly from the \$8,640 currently collected.

Training and Licensure of Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs)

The bill establishes a program for the training and licensure of Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs). Currently, EMDs are not licensed. The board will not be charging a licensure fee, since these individuals are either volunteers or government employees. The board will set State standards and license EMDs, and local jurisdictions who choose to participate will do the actual training.

Certification of Non-Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Services Providers

The EMS board does not currently charge for certification of non-advanced life support providers and has no plans for doing so in the future.

State Expenditures:

Certification of Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Services Providers

The board has been functioning as an agent for the BPQA in certifying advanced life support providers for many years. Therefore, this function can be handled with existing budgeted resources and will be supported by the transfer of certification fee revenues from the BPQA to the EMS board.

Training and Licensure of Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs)

The bill establishes a program for the training and licensure of Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs). Currently, EMDs are not licensed. The board will set State standards and license EMDs, and local jurisdictions who choose to participate will do the actual training. Any expenditures on the part of the EMS board in licensing EMDs can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Expenditures: Fees currently charged by the BPQA for advanced life support testing (\$15 per test) will be waived once oversight is transferred to the EMS board. Accordingly, local expenditures will decrease by a minimal amount. Local jurisdictions that choose to participate in the State's voluntary emergency medical dispatcher program would experience an additional minimal expenditure increase, for the cost of providing training.

Information Source(s): Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Physician Quality Assurance), Department of Fiscal Services

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