

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 785 (Delegates Goldwater and Nathan-Pulliam)
Environmental Matters

Nurse Psychotherapists - Authority to Prescribe and Dispense Drugs

This bill authorizes nurse psychotherapists to prescribe drugs commonly used in the practice of nurse psychotherapy and to personally prepare and dispense a sample or starter dosage of any drug the nurse psychotherapist is authorized to prescribe. Such an authorization from the Board of Nursing is predicated upon evidence of specified educational criteria having been met. Nurse psychotherapists who personally prepare and dispense drugs must allow the Division of Drug Control of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to inspect their offices at all reasonable hours.

A nurse psychotherapist may not direct a patient to a specific pharmacy. The Board of Nursing, the Board of Physician Quality Assurance, and the Board of Pharmacy are required to jointly adopt implementary regulations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. This bill increases the scope of practice for nurse psychotherapists, some of whom may have independent practices.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 1997

ncs

Analysis by: Lina Walker

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710