

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 775 (Senator Roesser)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Optometrists and Physicians - Contact Lens Prescriptions

This bill requires a licensed optometrist or physician to provide a copy of a contact lens prescription without cost to the patient who has been fitted for contact lenses, if requested by the patient. Each contact lens or ophthalmic lens prescription must contain information specified in the bill, including an expiration date of the prescription. A licensed optometrist or physician is not liable for an injury or condition resulting from negligence in the packaging, manufacturing, or dispensing of contact lenses by a person other than the licensed optometrist or physician. A person may only dispense contact lenses on receipt of a written prescription, unless a licensed optometrist or physician is dispensing the prescription and it is authorized by another licensed optometrist or physician. A licensed optometrist or physician is required to have seen a patient before dispensing contact lenses to that patient. The bill also authorizes the State Board of Optometry and the Board of Physician Quality Assurance to impose a civil fine of between \$250 and \$1,000 on an optometrist and physician, respectively, or any other person who improperly fills a prescription for contact lenses, or fills an expired prescription for contact lenses.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues would increase by a minimal amount due to the bill's monetary penalty provision.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Compliance with the bill's requirements may increase administrative costs for some small business optometry and physician practices.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 1997

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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