

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 326 (Senators Collins and Dyson)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Referred to Environmental Matters

Health Occupations - Scope of Practice

This amended bill prohibits a licensed or certified health care practitioner from practicing a health occupation on an animal unless the practitioner: (1) is a licensed pharmacist; (2) is a licensed acupuncturist authorized to practice on animals; or (3) provides care to an animal in accordance with the requirements imposed by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. The bill also specifies that the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners may authorize the practice of a health occupation on an animal by a licensed or certified health care practitioner. The board may impose education, training, and supervisory requirements, as well as require the registration of the health care practitioner authorized to practice on an animal. A licensed veterinary practitioner is immune from any civil liability resulting from the actions of a licensed animal acupuncturist or any other health care practitioner authorized to practice on an animal. A person practicing animal acupuncture is included in the list of exclusions from the practice of veterinary medicine.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues would increase by \$1,500 in FY 1998. Future year revenues would increase by a nominal amount. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. The licensure and education requirements would impose additional cost on small business animal acupuncturists.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: Special fund revenues from license fees would increase by \$1,500 in fiscal 1998 for the State Board of Acupuncture. The estimate assumes approximately ten applicants for an animal acupuncture license in fiscal 1998. The lifetime license fee is anticipated to be set at \$150. Thereafter, special fund revenues increase by about \$450 annually, which reflect three new applicants each year.

The State Board of Acupuncture and the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners would be able to handle the bill's requirements with existing resources.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Boards and Commissions, Board of Acupuncture); Department of Agriculture (Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners); Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 1997
lc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 27, 1997

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