

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 527 (Senator Hollinger)
Economic and Environmental Affairs

Referred to Environmental Matters

**State Board of Physician Quality Assurance - Discipline of Physicians - System of
Delivery of Health Care Services**

This amended bill authorizes the Board of Physician Quality Assurance to discipline a physician who is responsible for establishing or supervising protocols or procedures for a system of delivery of health care services and that system fails to meet appropriate quality standards as determined by an appropriate peer review. The physician is exempt from discipline (1) if the protocols or procedures have been approved by a medical staff or a medical staff committee; or (2) for the independent judgement error of a health care provider who provides direct patient care in contradiction to established protocols or procedures for delivering health care services.

The board must refer any allegations against a physician pertaining to the above violation to a committee of five physicians who serve as medical directors of organizations identical to the organization in which the licensee is the medical director, after conducting the necessary preliminary investigations. In addition, the board must inform the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene of the allegation and referral. The committee must report its findings and recommendations to the board and the Secretary. A physician may not be disciplined unless (1) the referral has been made to the committee; (2) the board and the Secretary jointly review the recommendations of the committee; and (3) the board and the Secretary agree on the appropriate disciplinary action.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None. This bill does not directly affect small businesses.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 1997

lc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 27, 1997

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