

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1032 (Delegate Kelly)

Environmental Matters

State Board of Physician Quality Assurance - Nonconventional Medical Treatments

This bill increases, from 15 to 17, the membership of the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance. The two additional physician members must be licensed physicians who dedicate a significant portion of their practice to the use of a “nonconventional medical treatment”. The bill requires at least one of the new physician board members to participate in an investigation and peer review of a licensee if the case against the licensee: (1) involves the standard of care applicable to a physician who uses a nonconventional medical treatment; and (2) is referred to the faculty, a committee of the faculty, or a county medical society for investigation and physician peer review. The board may not discipline a licensee for using a nonconventional medical treatment unless: (1) the nonconventional medical treatment has a safety risk greater than the treatment generally used for the same medical condition; or (2) the nonconventional medical treatment is generally not effective.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Expense reimbursements (approximating \$8,000 annually) for the new physician board members could be absorbed within the board’s existing budget. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Small business physician practices that provide nonconventional medical treatments could benefit from the recognition accorded their practices by this bill.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Physician Quality Assurance), Office of Administrative Hearings, Department of Legislative

Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - March 2, 1998

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