

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 383 (Chairman, Economic Matters Committee)
(Departmental - Maryland Insurance Administration)

Economic Matters

Health Occupations - Boards - Disclosure of Information

This departmental bill specifies that if a health board or the Office of the Attorney General determines that information contained in the record of a board licensee concerns possible insurance fraud activity, the board must report the information to the Insurance Fraud Division of the Maryland Insurance Administration. This bill applies to acupuncturists, chiropractors, dentists, dieticians, licensed nutritionists, pharmacists, pharmacies, physical therapists, podiatrists, psychologists, and social workers.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Insurance Administration has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: Currently, the Board of Physician Quality Assurance (BPQA) is authorized to disclose information concerning possible insurance fraud from the records of a licensee to the Fraud Division of the Insurance Administration. Possible insurance fraud information from the other health occupation boards, however, requires a subpoena before it may be released to the Insurance Administration. This bill would give the specified health occupation boards the same authority as BPQA.

State Expenditures: The Boards and Commissions within the Department of Health and

Mental Hygiene advises that special fund revenues would increase by \$12,626 in fiscal 1999, which reflects the bill's October 1, 1998 effective date. The estimate includes the cost of hiring one contractual Office Clerk to handle the additional workload and leasing one photocopier.

The Department of Legislative Services advises that although workload and expenditures for the boards may increase as a result of this bill, the effect is assumed to be minimal and could be handled with existing budgeted resources. This assessment is based on BPQA's experience in providing insurance fraud information to the Insurance Administration, which is nominal.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Boards and Commissions, Board of Physician Quality Assurance); Insurance Administration; Office of the Attorney General; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Department of Legislative Services

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