

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 444 (Delegate Owings)

Environmental Matters

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**Licensed Physical Therapists and Licensed Physical Therapist Assistants - Scope of Practice - Topical Pharmaceutical Agents**

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This bill authorizes a licensed physical therapist or licensed physical therapist assistant to apply to the skin a “topical pharmaceutical agent” by specified techniques. The licensed physical therapist or licensed physical therapy assistant must: (1) have appropriate documentation in the patient’s medical record concerning the application of a topical pharmaceutical agent; and (2) allow the Office of Drug Control of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to enter and inspect the licensee’s office at all reasonable hours. A licensed physical therapist may only procure a topical pharmaceutical agent from a person that holds a distribution permit issued by the State Board of Pharmacy to dispense prescription drugs or devices. A licensed physical therapy assistant may not procure a topical pharmaceutical agent. The State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, in consultation with the Board of Pharmacy, must adopt regulations concerning the storage of topical pharmaceutical agents.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill’s requirements could be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Physical Therapy Examiners), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 1998  
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