

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 454 (Delegate Owings)

Environmental Matters

Physical Therapy - License and Practice Requirements

This bill requires an applicant for a physical therapy license to demonstrate written, as well as oral, competency in the English language. The bill specifies that an applicant qualifies for licensure if the applicant has graduated from a physical therapy program in the United States that is approved by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education, in addition to meeting other current law requirements. The bill also modifies the education standards and specifies the course work requirements for a physical therapy license for an applicant who has been educated in physical therapy outside the United States.

The bill expands the grounds under which the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners may discipline a licensee, and authorizes the board to require an examination by a health care provider while investigating an allegation against a licensee. The board must pay the cost of the examination. An action may be maintained in the name of the board or the State to enjoin the unauthorized practice of physical therapy or conduct that is grounds for disciplinary action.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's impact is small enough that it could be absorbed within the board's existing budget.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. This bill creates additional licensure requirements for certain foreign physical therapists.

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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