

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1094 (Delegate Redmer)

Environmental Matters

Health Occupations - Physician Assistants - Physician Delegated Prescriptive Authority

This bill authorizes a supervising physician to delegate “prescriptive authority” to a physician assistant under an expanded job description for the physician assistant if: (1) the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance (BPQA) approves the application for expanded job duties; (2) the physician assistant demonstrates competency by meeting and complying with the requirements specified in the bill; and (3) the supervising physician establishes minimum criteria for protocols, which include reviewing all medical records containing a notation of medications prescribed or dispensed by the physician assistant, and notifying BPQA if the physician assistant’s prescriptive authority has been restricted or removed. The bill also specifies the limitations of the physician assistant’s prescriptive authority. The BPQA must provide the State Board of Pharmacy with a list of physician assistants with prescriptive authority on a quarterly basis.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. This bill increases the scope of practice of physician assistants. Thus, small business health practices that employ physician assistants would be positively affected. Any market competition that results between physician assistants and pharmacists due to this bill would be minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

Bill Summary: “Prescriptive authority” means authority delegated by a physician to a physician assistant to prescribe, dispense, and administer controlled dangerous substances, noncontrolled substances, nonprescription medication, and medical devices.

A physician assistant may write prescriptions only for Schedule II, III, IV, and V medications, noncontrolled substances, nonprescription medications, or medical devices. A physician assistant may not write prescriptions for controlled dangerous substances unless the physician assistant has a valid State Controlled Dangerous Substances registration and a federal Drug Enforcement Agency registration. A physician assistant may not dispense medications unless: (1) the supervising physician has the legal authority to dispense medications; (2) all appropriate State and federal regulations are followed; and (3) pharmacy services are not reasonably available or an emergency situation exists and dispensing medication is in the best interest of the patient.

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

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Inc

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