

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 274 (Senator Hollinger, *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**State Board of Physician Quality Assurance - Discipline of Physicians - System of  
Delivery of Health Care Services**

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This bill authorizes the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance to discipline a physician who is responsible for establishing or supervising protocol for a health care delivery system and the protocols/procedures fail to meet appropriate quality standards as determined by appropriate review. A physician is exempt from discipline for: (1) the independent judgement error of a health care provider who provides direct patient care in contradiction to established protocols/procedures for delivering quality health care services; or (2) establishing or supervising protocols/procedures in a health care facility if the protocols/procedures have been approved by the medical staff or staff committee of the facility. In addition, the bill requires the board to refer such allegations against a physician to a committee comprised of physicians responsible for establishing or supervising protocols/procedures for a health care delivery system and, if appropriate, a physician with the medical specialty related to the care under review.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any workload increase would be small enough that it could be handled with the board's and the Office of Administrative Hearings' existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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

Services

**Fiscal Note History:**

First Reader - February 12, 1998

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