

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 985 (Delegate Perrv. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Acupuncture - Qualifications for Licensure

This bill alters the educational requirements for an acupuncture license. The bill increases the number of hours of clinical training necessary for licensure from 300 to 500, but repeals the requirement that an applicant complete a training course that is: (1) approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission; or (2) accredited by the National Accreditation Commission for Schools and Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, or an equivalent course approved by the commission. In addition, applicants are required to pass an examination given by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, or an equivalent examination, in order to qualify for licensure. Under current law, the examination requirement applies only to applicants who did not graduate from an accredited or approved program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate minimal effect on special fund revenues from license fees. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Indeterminate. The bill lowers the requirements for licensure for some acupuncturists while it increases the standards for others.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: Increasing the number of clinical training hours and requiring a passing score on a national examination may reduce the number of applicants who could qualify for a license. On the other hand, eliminating the requirement of graduation from an accredited or approved course would lower the standards for qualification and could increase the number

of applicants who could qualify for a license.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Acupuncture), Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 1998

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