

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1200 (Delegate Barve)

Environmental Matters

Licensure of Physicians - Qualifications - Postgraduate Training

This bill requires that an applicant for licensure as a physician must have successfully completed two years of training in an accredited postgraduate medical training program, and submit sufficient evidence of the training to the Board of Physician Quality Assurance. The bill also changes the postgraduate medical education requirements for foreign medical school applicants from three years of postgraduate training to two years.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate effect on Board of Physician Quality Assurance revenues in FY 2000. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: Currently, the Board of Physician Quality Assurance (BPQA) requires applicants who have received their medical education in the United States to have one year of postgraduate education before they can apply for licensure. Foreign medical school graduates must have three years of postgraduate education before applying. The bill standardizes a two-year postgraduate education requirement for both foreign and domestic applicants. As a result, some domestic-educated applicants will not be able to apply for licensure until they complete a second year of postgraduate education. Additionally, more foreign-educated applicants may apply due to the less-stringent educational requirements. At this time, there are no data on the number of applicants this bill will affect, although the

number is expected to be minimal.

The licensure application fee is \$160, and foreign graduates pay an additional \$100 fee for foreign credential evaluation. As a result of this bill, the number of domestic-educated applicants may decrease slightly in fiscal 2000, and the number of foreign-educated applicants may increase slightly. Current law requires BPQA revenues from license application fees to be distributed: (1) 80% to the BPQA Fund; (2) 14% to the State Scholarship Administration, half of which is transferred to the Health Manpower Shortage Incentive Grant Program and half to the Loan Assistance Repayment Program; and (3) 6% to the State general fund. Any increase or decrease in revenues generated from application fees is expected to be negligible.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Physician Quality Assurance, Health Resources Planning Commission), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 19, 1999

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