

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 1999 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 302 (Senator Miller)  
 Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Board of Physician Quality Assurance - Physician Profiles -  
 Disclosure to the Public**

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This bill requires the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance to create and maintain an individual profile on each licensed physician who practices in Maryland. A person may request a written copy of the licensee’s profile, and the board also must make the profiles available to the public on the Internet. The board must provide a copy of the licensee’s profile to the licensee and allow a reasonable period for the licensee to make factual corrections. The board must include disciplinary information within ten days after the disciplinary action becomes final.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund expenditures could increase by \$180,800 in FY 2000. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. Special fund revenues from licensure fees would increase in an amount to exactly offset the expenditures and to cover the 20% of license renewal fees that goes to the State Scholarship Administration and general fund.

(in dollars)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
GF Revenues	\$12,900	\$13,700	\$12,900	\$13,700	\$12,900
SF Revenues	202,900	214,500	202,900	214,500	202,900
GF Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0
SF Expenditures	180,800	130,900	133,100	135,400	137,700
Net Effect	\$35,000	\$97,300	\$82,700	\$92,800	\$78,100

*Note: ( ) = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. Physicians' biennial license fees could increase approximately \$20 per license.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The Board of Physician Quality Assurance (BPQA) will be responsible for creating and maintaining a physician profile for approximately 22,200 licensed physicians in the State. The profile must include: (1) a description of any disciplinary action taken by the board against the licensee within the most recent ten-year period; (2) a description of any final disciplinary action taken by a licensing board in another state against the licensee within the most recent ten-year period; (3) the name of any medical school that the licensee attended and the date on which the licensee graduated; (4) a description of any internship and residency training; (5) a description of any specialty board certification; (6) the name of any hospital or other organization where the licensee has medical privileges; (7) the location of the licensee's primary practice setting; and (8) whether the licensee participates in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program. In addition, BPQA must provide appropriate and accessible internet links to the internet sites of HMOs licensed in Maryland and the American Medical Association.

**State Expenditures:** Special fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$180,800 in fiscal 2000, which accounts for the October 1, 1999 effective date. This estimate includes the cost of one new permanent position and one new contractual position (data service operator) to collect information provided by licensed physicians, enter the information into the computer system, maintain and update the computer system, respond to written requests, and provide physicians with written copies of their individual profiles. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$24,000
Inquiries to the National Practitioner Database (\$4 per inquiry)	91,300
Contract with Internet Provider to Develop Internet Site	30,000
Operating Expenses	<u>35,500</u>
<b>Total FY 2000 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$180,800</b>

Future year expenditures reflect (1) full salaries with 3.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

**State Revenues:** The Board of Physician Quality Assurance (BPQA) licenses physicians on

a biennial basis. BPQA would increase the licensure fee in an amount to exactly offset the increase in expenditures associated with the bill's requirements. Current law requires license renewal revenues to be distributed: (1) 80% to the BPQA fund; (2) 14% to the State Scholarship Administration; and (3) 6% to the general fund. In order to cover the costs associated with the physician profiles and pay 20% of all revenues to other funds, BPQA must raise the license renewal fee in an amount equal to 125% of actual physician profile expenditures. It is estimated that the fee for each license renewal will increase approximately \$20 to offset the increased expenditures.

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

<b>Fiscal Note History:</b>	First Reader - March 8, 1999
ncs/scf	Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 30, 1999
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