

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

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 773 (Senator Astle)

Finance

---

**Home Health Agencies - Authority of Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene -  
Repeal of Termination Date**

---

This bill repeals the September 30, 1999 termination date for current law providing that a home health agency accredited by an organization approved by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) is deemed to meet State licensure standards.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** State finances for the home health agency licensure program would continue in FY 2000.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

---

**Fiscal Analysis**

**Background:** There is currently only one accredited home health agency in Maryland. Accredited home health agencies do not require State licensure inspections. However, DHMH is authorized to investigate a complaint or follow up on a problem indicated by the accreditation agency's report. In addition, DHMH is authorized to conduct a survey of up to 5% of all home health agencies to validate the findings of an accreditation organization.

**State Revenues:** State revenues will be maintained because each home health agency, including accredited agencies, licensed by the State must pay an annual license fee of \$350.

**State Effect:** State expenditures will be maintained because the bill proposes to continue the home health agency accreditation deeming program. The deeming program results in expenditure savings because the State does not have to inspect an accredited home health agency before issuing a license. However, because there is only one accredited home health agency, any such savings is negligible.

---

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Licensing and Certification Administration), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 17, 1999

lnc/jr

---

Analysis by: Sue Friedlander

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510