

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 246 (Senator Dorman)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Health Occupations - Massage Therapists

This bill prohibits uncertified individuals from practicing massage therapy, massage, myotherapy, or any related practice. The bill also alters the definition of “practice massage therapy” by repealing the requirement that an individual must represent oneself to be a certified massage therapist.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues may increase by an indeterminate minimal amount. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Certain uncertified individuals who practice massage therapy will be unable to do so because this bill broadens the scope of the licensed practice of massage therapy.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: Chapter 678 of 1996 (House Bill 51) gave the Board of Chiropractic Examiners the authority to regulate the practice of massage therapy. Certification of massage therapists was to begin January 1, 1998. While regulations have been proposed to administer certification, to date they have not been approved and no massage therapists have been certified.

State Revenues: Special fund revenues could increase by an indeterminate minimal amount as a result of increased application and certification fees. While no massage therapists have

actually applied for or received certification, the provisions of this bill would only minimally increase the number of anticipated applicants, which is currently estimated at 1,000 - 1,600. Proposed application fees are \$100, and proposed biennial certification fees are \$200.

The board does not anticipate any significant revenue increase from the fine provision, because the board rarely imposes fines as a disciplinary measure.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Chiropractic Examiners), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 1999
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