

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 161 (Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee)
(Departmental - Health and Mental Hygiene)

Environmental Matters

**Health Occupations - State Board of Physician Quality Assurance -
Examination and Licensure Requirements**

This departmental bill repeals the Board of Physician Quality Assurance's (BPQA) authority to establish physician licensure examination standards and to administer the examination. An applicant must instead pass the federation licensing examination or the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). The bill also repeals the board's authority to waive the examination requirements in situations where an applicant has passed the federation licensing examination or the USMLE.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies current practice.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: The BPQA is responsible for administering physician licensure exams. The board may waive the examination requirement if the applicant has passed the federation licensing examination or the USMLE.

Background: The BPQA used to administer its own written examinations for licensure as a

physician in Maryland, and allowed certain waiver provisions for individuals who had passed other national physician licensure exams. The board had been administering the USMLE as a written exam, and administered its last written exam in May 1999. Many states are now requiring a national physician's exam instead of administering their own. The BPQA currently requires applicants to take the USMLE, which is now a computer-based exam and is administered nationally by the Federation of State Medical Boards.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2000
cm/jr

Analysis by: Susan D. John

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