

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1385 (Delegate Love)

Environmental Matters

Maryland Athletic Trainers Act

This bill provides for the regulation of “athletic trainers” by establishing a seven-member State Board of Athletic Trainer Examiners within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). An individual must be licensed by the board before the individual may “provide athletic trainer services” in Maryland. The board will set licensing and renewal fees as well as the educational requirements to qualify for a license and the continuing education requirements to renew a license.

The bill is effective October 1, 2001, and sunsets July 1, 2004, subject to the Maryland Program Evaluation Act.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect in FY 2001 due to the bill’s effective date. In FY 2002, general fund revenues would increase by \$100,000. Out-year revenues reflect a two-year licensing cycle and industry growth of 2%. General fund expenditures would increase by \$75,200 in FY 2002. Out-year expenditures reflect annualization and ongoing operations.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
GF Revenues	\$0	\$100,000	\$1,000	\$102,000	\$0
GF Expenditures	0	75,200	116,700	122,000	0
Net Effect	\$0	\$24,800	(\$115,700)	(\$20,000)	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Licenses are valid for two years with all licensing revenues going to the general fund. The bill provides certain exemptions from the examination requirements for those who hold a certificate from the National Athletic Trainers Association Board, for those who are medical professional regulated by another board (i.e., nurses, doctors, etc.), or for anyone who has been a compensated athletic trainer in Maryland since January 1, 1999.

An applicant must have a four-year degree from an accredited school in a board-approved course of study and be at least 18 years old. A licensee may face disciplinary action or an applicant can be denied a license for various criminal and unethical behavior.

Any person who violates a provision of the bill is subject to a fine up to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment up to six months.

Current Law: There are no State laws or regulations specifically for athletic trainers. Inasmuch as an athletic trainer may be licensed to practice other kinds of medicine (such as a doctor or chiropractor) then the practitioner is under the applicable regulations of that profession.

Background: North Carolina and Virginia both have regulations and a regulatory board for the profession of athletic trainers. This bill is very similar to the law in North Carolina, which was enacted in 1997.

State Revenues: There are an estimated 500 athletic trainers in the State; DHMH advises that it expects to set licensing and renewal fees at \$200. Industry growth is expected to be 1% - 2% annually. This will result in an increase of approximately \$100,000 in general fund revenues in fiscal 2001, continuing in a biennial cycle in the out-years.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$75,200 in fiscal 2002, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2001, effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring a program administrator, an office clerk, and a fiscal clerk to manage the licensing process and communicate with the athletic trainers. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$59,600
Operating Expenses	<u>15,600</u>
Total FY 2002 State Expenditures	\$75,200

Future year expenditures reflect (1) full salaries with 4.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of Administrative Hearings, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services.

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 14, 2000
ncs/r

Analysis by: Brian D. Baugus

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