

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 375 (Senators Harris and Hollinger)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Occupational Therapy - Scope of Practice**

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This bill alters the scope of practice for occupational therapy professionals. It also changes certain board procedures and revises licensure renewal procedures.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's changes could be handled with the existing resources of the Board of Occupational Therapy.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** This bill distinguishes the difference between practicing "occupational therapy" and practicing "limited occupational therapy" by redefining the latter. It changes the definition of the practice of limited occupational therapy to mean the participation, while under periodic supervision of a licensed occupational therapist, in an initial screening and evaluation and a treatment program involving the principles and procedures of occupational therapy. The current definition of "limited occupational therapy" does not substantively differentiate the practice from "occupational therapy."

In addition, the bill changes board procedures to allow: (1) an annual election of one or more

chairpersons rather than officers; (2) appointment of an executive director; (3) employment of experts and consultants; and (4) a chairperson to delegate hearing authority to a committee.

The bill also allows the board to renew a licensee's license up to 30 days after expiration, and charge both a renewal fee and late fee. The board may reinstate a license if the licensee applies for reinstatement more than 30 days after expiration. The licensee must provide documentation of successful completion of continuing education requirements. The bill also repeals the board's authority to renew a temporary license.

The bill makes other changes that are procedural and stylistic in nature.

**Current Law:** Practice "limited occupational therapy" means to carry out a treatment program that applies the principles and procedures of occupational therapy. "Practice occupational therapy" means to evaluate, treat, and consult regarding problems that interfere with the functional and occupational performance of an individual who is impaired by physical, emotional, or developmental disability.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 785 (Delegate D. Davis, *et al.*) - Environmental Matters.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Occupational Therapy), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2000  
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