

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 1173

(Delegate Pitkin, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

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**Licensing - Physicians - Pain Management and Palliative Care Courses**

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This bill requires that an applicant for licensure as a physician must submit evidence to the Board of Physician Quality Assurance (BPQA) of successful completion of a pain management or palliative care course approved by the board in its regulations. An applicant is exempt from this requirement if the applicant attended a medical school that did not offer a pain management or palliative care course while the applicant attended the school.

Beginning October 1, 2003, as a condition of licensure renewal, BPQA must require a licensee to show that the licensee successfully completed a course in pain management or palliative care within the preceding licensure period.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The expansion of physician licensure requirements could be handled with existing BPQA resources. No effect on revenues.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful. All physicians will be required, beginning October 1, 2003, to complete a pain management course as a condition of licensure renewal. The cost of such a course is unknown at this time; however, a typical continuing medical education course costs approximately \$50 per hour for a licensed physician.

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## **Analysis**

**Current Law:** None applicable.

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### **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 – March 6, 2001  
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Analysis by: Susan D. John

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