

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTEHouse Bill 865 (Delegate Heller, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Maryland Athletic Trainers Act

This bill provides for the regulation of “athletic trainers” by the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). The bill establishes a paid five-member Trainer Advisory Committee to advise the board on a variety of matters and maintains a list of all licensed athletic trainers in the State. 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.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues would increase by \$200,000 in FY 2002. Out-year revenues reflect a two-year licensing cycle and 2% industry growth. General fund expenditures would increase by \$53,800 in FY 2002. Out-year expenditures reflect annualization and ongoing operations.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
GF Revenue	\$200,000	\$2,000	\$204,000	\$2,000	\$206,000
GF Expenditure	53,800	67,300	70,100	73,200	76,400
Net Effect	\$146,200	(\$65,300)	\$133,900	(\$71,200)	\$129,600

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, and apply to the board before October 1, 2001, for those who are medical professionals regulated by another board (i.e., nurses, doctors, etc.), or for anyone who has been a compensated athletic trainer in Maryland since January 1, 1996.

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 guilty of a misdemeanor and 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. Even though North Carolina has a separate athletic trainer board, this bill is similar in content to North Carolina's law.

State Revenues: There are an estimated 400 athletic trainers in the State; DHMH expects to set licensing and renewal fees at \$500. Industry growth is expected to be 1% - 2% annually. This would result in an increase of approximately \$200,000 in general fund revenues in fiscal 2002, continuing in a biennial cycle in the out-years.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$53,780 in fiscal 2002, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2001 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring a program administrator to manage the licensing process and communicate with the athletic trainers. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$34,386
Contractual Expenses	11,247
Operating Expenses	<u>8,147</u>
Total FY 2002 State Expenditures	\$53,780

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with a 6.5% increase in fiscal 2003 and a 4.5% increase each year thereafter, with 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increase in ongoing operating expenses. This estimate, however, does not reflect any compensation or expense reimbursements for committee members. Any such costs are assumed to be minimal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1385 of 2000 would have established a State Board of Athletic Trainer Examiners. It received an unfavorable report from the Environmental Matters Committee.

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 – February 22, 2001
jm/jr

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