

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 318           (Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee)

(Departmental – Health and Mental Hygiene)

Environmental Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice - Supervision of Aides**

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This departmental bill authorizes licensed occupational therapy assistants to supervise unlicensed aides.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2001.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill would not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

**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.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Unlicensed aides may only work under the direction of a licensed occupational therapist.

**Background:** The activities that unlicensed aides may undertake under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist, but not under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapy assistant are: (a) transfer practice; (b) assisting in: (i) functional activity, (ii) functional exercise, or (iii) activities of daily living (ADL) program; (c)

applying assistive devices; (d) applying adaptive devices; (e) assisting the client with the use of assistive equipment; (f) assisting the client with the use of adaptive equipment; (g) reality orientation for the confused client; (h) assisting the licensed occupational therapist in treatment including, but not limited to: (i) guarding, (ii) positioning, (iii) holding for splinting, (iv) holding for bracing, and (v) assisting with group and community re-entry activities; (i) fabrication of splint straps; (j) fabrication of bracing straps; (k) fabrication of assistive devices which are not worn directly by a client; and (l) transporting clients.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 1, 2001  
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