

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1157

(Delegate Klausmeier, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Finance

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**Hospitals - Uniform Standard Credentialing Form**

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This bill requires a hospital to use the uniform standard credentialing form as the initial application of a physician seeking to be credentialed.

The bill's provisions relating to a hospital's use of a uniform standard credentialing form take effect July 1, 2003. The bill's other provisions take effect July 1, 2002.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The adoption of regulations could be handled with existing budgeted resources of the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** A "uniform standard credentialing form" is a form designated by DHMH through regulation for credentialing physicians who seek to be employed by or have staff privileges at a hospital. The use of a uniform standard credentialing form does not preclude a hospital from requiring additional information as part of the credentialing process.

DHMH must consult with the Maryland Hospital Association, the University of Maryland Medical System, the Johns Hopkins Health System, the Medical and

Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland, the Medical Group Management Association, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and other affected parties in developing a uniform standard credentialing form for hospitals. DHMH must examine methods to address delays in carrier processing of physicians' initial applications for credentialing.

In regard to the uniform credentialing form used by a health insurer, nonprofit health service plan, HMO, or dental plan organization (carrier) to credential health care providers, the Insurance Commissioner may permit a carrier to use a health care facility's credentialing form to credential providers at the facility instead of the uniform form, if the carrier has designated the health care facility as the credentialing intermediary for the facility's physicians.

**Current Law:** A health insurer, nonprofit health service plan, HMO, and dental plan organization (carrier) must use a uniform credentialing form for credentialing a health care provider for participation on a provider panel. A hospital must credential a health care provider to grant staff privileges at the hospital, but is not required to use a particular form. A carrier is subject to a penalty not to exceed \$500 for violating the uniform credentialing form provisions.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 819 (Senator Dorman, *et al.*) - Finance.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Office of Health Care Quality, Boards and Commissions, Board of Physician Quality Assurance, Maryland Health Care Commission), Maryland Insurance Administration, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 5, 2002  
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