

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 48

(Senator Harris)

Finance

Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Quality Assurance Unit - Medical Director - Qualifications and Requirements

This bill requires that the HMO Quality Assurance Medical Director within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) have the same qualifications and requirements as the medical director of a licensed nursing facility as established in regulation.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not substantively change State activities or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There is an HMO Quality Assurance Unit within DHMH. The Secretary must appoint a medical director for the unit, who must: (1) be a physician licensed in the State; (2) be board certified in at least one specialty; (3) have experience in primary care and administrative medicine; and (4) have broad knowledge of HMOs and managed care organizations.

The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) provides that a medical director of a nursing facility must: (1) have a current license as a physician in this State; (2) have at least two years of experience or specialized training in the medical care of geriatric or

chronically ill and impaired residents; (3) have successful completion of a curriculum in physician management or administration from the American Medical Directors Association or another curriculum approved by the department or its designee; and (4) have privileges at a hospital in this State, be a participant in an HMO network, or be credentialed by a credentialing organization approved by DHMH.

Background: In 2001, DHMH promulgated regulations that require medical directors of nursing homes to meet certain experience and educational criteria. One of the requirements is successful completion of a curriculum in physician management or administration from the American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) or another curriculum approved by DHMH. As a result, the AMDA plans to offer its “Core Curriculum on Medical Direction” in Maryland, beginning in 2002. This training program consists of 35 hours in 18 topic areas central to medical direction and administrative medicine. The AMDA is the national professional association for medical directors and other physicians who practice in the long term care area.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Office of Health Care Quality, Maryland Health Care Commission), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 15, 2002
ncs/jr

Analysis by: Susan D. John

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