

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 790 (Chairman, Health and Government Operations Committee)  
(By Request – Departmental – Health and Mental Hygiene)  
Health and Government Operations

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**State Board of Physician Quality Assurance - Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation**

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This departmental bill extends the termination date of the Board of Physician Quality Assurance (BPQA) from July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2005, and changes the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset review) date from July 1, 2002 to July 1, 2004.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2003.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund revenues and expenditures for BPQA would be maintained beyond FY 2003. The FY 2004 budget allowance for BPQA is \$6.2 million. Out-year revenues and expenditures are expected to remain relatively constant, except for revenue fluctuations due to biennial licensure renewals.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) 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:** BPQA is subject to the Maryland Program Evaluation Act. Its termination date is July 1, 2003. BPQA collects special funds from licensees and pays

them directly to the Comptroller. The Comptroller must distribute 86% of licensure fees collected by BPQA to the BPQA fund. The remaining 14% is distributed to the State Scholarship Administration. Half of these fees are transferred to the Loan Assistance Repayment Program and half are transferred to the Health Manpower Shortage Incentive Grant Program.

**Background:** The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) conducted a sunset evaluation of BPQA in October 2001. The review resulted in a total of 34 recommendations, including the extension of BPQA's termination date from July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2008, five years before BPQA's standard ten-year review cycle. During the 2002 legislative session, HB 846 and SB 613 were introduced that would have extended the termination date until July 1, 2008. Neither bill passed. This bill extends the termination date to prevent termination on July 1, 2003.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar bills, HB 846 and SB 613, were introduced in the 2002 session. HB 846 was passed by the House with amendments. No further action was taken by the Senate. SB 613 was not reported by the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

**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 - February 25, 2003  
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