

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1114 (Delegate Menes, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

State Board of Physicians - Licensing and Continuing Education Requirements

This bill requires an applicant for a license to practice medicine to have successfully completed a course or comprehensive program on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). The Board of Physicians must require four hours of instruction on FASD as part of the continuing education requirements for license renewal over a time period determined in board regulations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Board of Physicians could adopt regulations specifying additional continuing educational requirements for renewal and verify that applicants for initial and renewal licensure meet the new requirements with existing budgeted resources. Some physicians working for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) could be required to meet these licensure requirements. Any additional costs could be handled with existing DHMH budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: An applicant for licensure as a physician must: (1) have a degree of doctor of medicine from an accredited medical school and submit evidence of successful completion of one year of training in an accredited postgraduate medical training program; or (2) have a degree of doctor of osteopathy from a school of osteopathy in the U.S., its territories or possessions, Puerto Rico, or Canada that has standards for

graduation equivalent to those established by the American Osteopathic Association and submit evidence of successful completion of one year of training in an accredited postgraduate medical training program.

The board may establish continuing education requirements as a condition of licensure renewal. In establishing these requirements, the board must evaluate existing methods, devices, and programs in use among the various medical specialties and other recognized medical groups. The board may not establish or enforce these requirements if they would so reduce the number of physicians in a community as to jeopardize the availability of adequate medical care.

Background: FASD is the term currently used to describe a group of birth defects that can result when a woman drinks alcohol while pregnant. These anomalies include physical and neurological conditions such as fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorder, and alcohol-related birth defects. FASD is not a diagnostic term used by clinicians.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Physicians, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration), Department of Legislative Services

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