

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 926

(Delegate Donoghue)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners - Physical Therapists and Assistants
- Qualifications and Scope of License

This bill repeals the authority of the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners to waive the preceptorship requirement for any physical therapy license applicant who currently is licensed in another state. It also repeals the limitation that a licensed physical therapist must provide *onsite* supervision and instruction to a licensed physical therapy assistant practicing limited physical therapy.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change would not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An applicant for a physical therapy license who was educated outside of any state must complete a preceptorship (a period of practical experience and training) that fulfills the board's requirements, in addition to meeting other licensure requirements.

A licensed physical therapist assistant may practice limited physical therapy only under the direction of a licensed physical therapist who gives ongoing supervision and

instruction to ensure the patient's safety and welfare. The bill repeals the requirement that the supervision be onsite.

Background: There are 7,667 licensed physical therapists and 1,892 licensed physical therapy assistants in Maryland.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2005
n/ljm

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