

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 690

(Delegate Mandel, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

**State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators - Study on Licensure
and Board Membership**

This bill requires the State Board of Nursing Home Administrators – in conjunction with the Health Facilities Association of Maryland, Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan, and any other nursing home provider the board designates – to convene a workgroup to study the current standards for licensure of a nursing home administrator applicant and the board’s effectiveness in regulating administrators in the State. The study must: • review standards for licensure; • review the board’s composition; and • make recommendations for any statutory or regulatory changes to licensure standards that would encourage experienced individuals to become administrators and modify the board’s composition to increase the board’s effectiveness in regulating administrators. By December 31, 2006, the workgroup must report its findings and recommendations to specified legislative committees.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill’s requirements could be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Statute requires an individual to be licensed before he/she may practice as a nursing home administrator in Maryland. Among the licensure requirements, an individual must have completed a board-approved AIT program or have completed one year of full-time nursing home administration in a nursing home.

Under statute, the board must consist of 11 members: 5 must be licensed nursing home administrators who are practicing actively and have at least five years of experience as licensed nursing home administrators; 2 must be individuals who are not nursing home administrators but who are engaged actively in professions that are concerned with the care of chronically ill, infirm, or aged individuals; and 4 must be consumers.

Board regulations specify that candidates for nursing home administrator licensure must complete a board-approved program of practical training that includes a minimum of 12 months of experience in nursing home administration. This requirement may be satisfied in whole or in part by the AIT program, board-approved credit for qualifying prior experience, or a combination of the two.

The AIT program is a minimum of 12 months unless the board awards credit for prior experience within the last five years in specified professions or under specified educational or other training experience. The amount of credit awarded is at the board's discretion based on the individual's exposure to the core of knowledge specified under the subjects the board examination may cover. The amount of credit the board awards may not exceed:

- six months for an individual who has been an assistant administrator or department head in a licensed nursing home, or a hospital administrator;
- three months for an individual who has been the manager, administrator, or director of an assisted living facility;
- three months, but not less than one month credit, for an individual who has had managerial experience that included the core set of knowledge specified under the subjects the board examination may cover, been a senior management official of a health care or nonhealth care business organization, been an executive director of a continuing care retirement community, or been a chief operating officer of a hospital; or
- eight months for an individual who has been a hospital administrator.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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