

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 144 (Delegate Elliott)
Health and Government Operations

State Board of Pharmacy - Pharmacist Rehabilitation Committee - Definition

This bill requires the State Board of Pharmacy's pharmacist rehabilitation committee to include at least one pharmacist instead of consisting of a majority of pharmacists.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A pharmacist rehabilitation committee evaluates and provides assistance to any pharmacist or registered pharmacy technician who needs treatment and rehabilitation for alcoholism, drug abuse, chemical dependency, or other physical, emotional, or mental condition. A majority of the committee members must be pharmacists.

Background: The State Board of Pharmacy advises that under current law the only group the board can recognize as a pharmacist rehabilitation committee is the Pharmacists Education Assistance Committee (PEAC). Most PEAC pharmacists have not had professional training in substance abuse and mental health treatment, the board advises.

PEAC had 29 cases on January 1, 2006 and 29 cases at the end of the year as well. During the year, eight new pharmacists sought treatment and eight pharmacists were discharged from treatment. Five pharmacists discharged from treatment returned to practicing pharmacy. The board advises that it cannot determine if the small number of individuals PEAC evaluated in 2006 was due to limited outreach and/or limited numbers of pharmacists who refer themselves for evaluation and treatment services from PEAC.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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