

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 48  
Finance

(Senator Middleton)

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**State Personnel - Certificate of Illness or Disability - Medical Technicians and  
Signatures**

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This bill authorizes a medical technician who performed a test under the direction of a physician authorized to practice medicine or surgery to sign an original certificate of illness or disability for a State Personnel Management System (SPMS) employee. The medical technician must attach to the certificate a copy of the medical doctor's order or prescription for the test performed. Either a medical provider's signature or a facsimile of the signature provided by an employee, with the medical provider's approval, is acceptable as a signature on a certificate of illness or disability.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's changes are technical in nature and would not materially impact State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** SPMS employees who use sick leave for at least five consecutive workdays for personal illness or disability or that of an immediate family member may not receive payment unless the employee gives his or her immediate supervisor an original certificate of illness or disability. This certificate must be signed by either a physician authorized to practice medicine or surgery, an accredited Christian Science

practitioner, a health care provider as provided by the federal Family Medical Leave Act, or one of the following if authorized to practice and performing within the scope of that authority:

- a chiropractor;
- a clinical psychologist;
- a dentist;
- a licensed certified social worker – clinical;
- a nurse midwife;
- a nurse practitioner;
- an oral surgeon;
- an optometrist;
- a physical therapist; or
- a podiatrist.

The certificate of illness or disability must include a prognosis about the employee's ability to return to work.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** This bill is identical to SB 273 of 2006, as amended, which passed the Senate. The bill was heard in the House Appropriations Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 26, 2007  
bfl/ljm

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