

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 949

(Delegate Stein, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Military Health Care Personnel - Staffing Initiative

This bill requires the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, with the Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB) and appropriate health care provider regulatory boards, to make findings regarding barriers under the Health Occupations Article to licensing or certifying individuals with training and experience in providing health care through military service that is equivalent to training and experience required for licensure or certification. A report on findings and recommendations for expediting the inclusion of individuals with military health care training and experience into the State's health care workforce is due by December 1, 2007 to specified legislative committees.

The findings and recommendations for licensure and certification must focus on meeting employment needs in acute hospital emergency rooms and other units and community-based health care settings. They must be determined in consultation with specified organizations and any other interest groups determined appropriate by the Secretary.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: GWIB must perform the duties and functions identified in § 111 of the federal Workforce Investment Act and other functions designated by the Governor to improve the quality of the State's workforce.

Eighteen boards and one commission regulate the various health professions in Maryland. They are responsible for the examination, licensure, regulation, and discipline of more than 330,000 health care providers.

Background: GWIB's health care industry initiative steering committee in 2003 established that the major obstacle for transitioning military health care workers to civilian health care jobs is that, although they have health care training and experience, they may not meet the licensing and certification requirements to practice in Maryland. The steering committee has an existing forum and process to work with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and its health occupations boards on common issues and questions.

State Fiscal Effect: Existing DHMH and GWIB staff could examine the barriers a military health care worker faces when transitioning to a civilian health care job in Maryland. Existing staff also could draft any necessary regulations and legislation as a result of this examination and make recommendations to the General Assembly.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Military Department; *Charting New Directions: Governor's Healthcare Workforce Summit Monograph*, Maryland Governor's Workforce Investment Board, 2003; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

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