

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 511 (Senators Middleton and Conway)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Health and Government Operations

Health Occupations - Dental Hygiene Students - Exception From Licensure Requirements While Participating in Approved Educational Program

This bill exempts students of dental hygiene who are engaged in an approved dental hygiene education program from the requirement to be licensed by the Board of Dental Examiners to practice dental hygiene.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual has to be licensed by the Board of Dental Examiners to practice dental hygiene or dentistry. However, exceptions are made for • a student of dentistry while engaged in an educational program at an approved school of dentistry; • a dentist while performing official duties in a federal dental service; • an individual licensed to practice dentistry in any other state or foreign country, while the individual makes a clinical demonstration before a dental society, dental convention, or dental college, or performs professional duties on a specific case for which the individual is called into Maryland; or • a dental assistant, if the dental assistant performs only procedures that do not require the professional skills of a licensed dentist and performs intraoral tasks only under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

Background: According to the board, the bill codifies current practice by adding an exception for dental hygiene students who, as part of their coursework, rotate through public health facilities.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2008
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