

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1082 (Delegate Benson)
Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Polysomnographic Technologists - Education and Licensing Requirements

This bill extends the date by which a polysomnographic technologist must be licensed by the State Board of Physicians in order to practice in the State from October 1, 2009 to October 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The practice of polysomnography means monitoring and recording physiologic data during sleep, including sleep-related respiratory disturbances under the supervision of a licensed physician, or using these data for the purposes of assisting a licensed physician in the diagnosis and treatment of sleep and wake disorders. It also includes diagnosing and treating individuals who suffer from sleep disorders under certain circumstances.

Chapter 595 of 2006 required the board to license and regulate the practice of polysomnography and established the board's Polysomnography Professional Standards Committee. The committee has to develop and recommend to the board various provisions necessary to appropriately regulate the profession, including regulations, a code of ethics, standards of care for the practice of polysomnography, and requirements

for licensure. With certain exceptions, all polysomnographers must be licensed by October 1, 2009.

The law requires that, in order to qualify for licensure, applicants have to have graduated from a polysomnographic educational program that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

Background: While 11 educational programs have been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs nationwide, none has been accredited in Maryland. Since 2006 when the polysomnography licensure bill was passed, CAAHEP altered its accreditation guidelines to require that a program be in operation for one year prior to being accredited. Therefore, 2012 is the estimated time when a class may graduate from a CAAHEP-approved program in Maryland.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2008
mcp/ljm Revised - House Third Reader - March 31, 2008

Analysis by: Sarah K. Harvey

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510