

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1407

(Delegate Mizeur, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Birth Options Preservation Study

This bill requires the Board of Nursing and the Board of Physicians to conduct a joint study to determine whether there is an appropriate alternative written protocol to replace the current requirement for a certified nurse-midwife to have a signed written collaborative agreement with a licensed physician. In conducting the study, the boards must collaborate with the Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Maryland, the Maryland Hospital Association, and the American College of Nurse-Midwives, Maryland Chapter. The boards must report on the study's results and recommendations to specified legislative committees by December 1, 2009.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: "Practice nurse midwifery" means the management and care of essentially normal newborns and of essentially normal women antepartally, intrapartally, and postpartally. Practice nurse midwifery includes • family planning and well woman reproductive care; • prescribing substances commonly used in the practice of nurse

midwifery as determined by the Board of Nursing in consultation with the Board of Pharmacy and Board of Physicians; • prescribing controlled substances in Schedules II, III, IV, and V commonly used in the practice of nurse midwifery as determined by the board in consultation with the Board of Pharmacy and Board of Physicians; and • dispensing substances prescribed in the course of treating a patient at a nonprofit medical facility or clinic, a higher education institution health center, or a public health facility, medical facility under contract with a State or local health department, or another publicly funded facility. The board sets rules and regulations for the practice of nurse midwifery.

Background: The American Midwifery Certification Board is the national certifying body for certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives. In 2007, there were 195 certified nurse-midwives in the State.

Certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives practice in accordance with the Standards for Practice of Midwifing as defined by the American College of Nurse-Midwives. Standard V specifies that midwifery care is based upon knowledge, skills, and judgments that are reflected in written practice guidelines.

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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