

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 279 (Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee)
(By Request – Departmental – Health and Mental Hygiene)
Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

**Board of Physical Therapy Examiners - Issuance of Temporary Licenses -
Repeal**

This departmental bill repeals the authority of the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners to issue temporary licenses.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any change in the issuance of licenses would not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: A temporary license issued to a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant authorizes the holder to practice physical therapy while the temporary license is effective. A temporary license expires 90 days after being issued.

The Board of Physical Therapy Examiners issues temporary licenses to applicants who submit to the board • an application on the form required by the board; and • any other

document required by the board. In addition, applicants must pay an application fee, and foreign applicants must have been accepted for a preceptorship.

Background: The Board of Physical Therapy Examiners regulates the practice of physical therapy in Maryland. The board writes regulations, interprets the scope of practice, educates licensees, and disciplines those who violate the law.

According to the board, the law that authorized temporary licenses was passed at a time when the national examination was given only twice a year, allowing new graduates to work long before they took the examination. However, new graduates can now sit for the national examination immediately upon graduation, and licenses can be issued immediately to those who pass.

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 - January 28, 2008
ncs/ljm

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