

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 570 (Delegate Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

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Health Care Providers - Training - Eating Disorders

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This bill requires licensed physicians, physician assistants, dentists, nurses, social workers, and psychologists (health care providers) to complete online course work or training in the early recognition of and intervention for eating disorders. Health care providers must attest to the appropriate licensing board on renewal of licensure that they have completed the requiring course work or training.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Special fund expenditures increase in FY 2012 for the five health occupations boards impacted by the bill to collect information on health care provider training on renewal of licensure and process and grant exemptions as required under the bill. Special fund expenditures may also increase by a minimal amount in future years to process and grant exemptions. The amount of such increase cannot be reliably estimated at this time but could be significant for some boards.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** Any course work or training must be approved by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and consistent with standards or best practices established by the Academy for Eating Disorders. Course work or training must be at least one hour in length and include information regarding physical, emotional, and behavioral indicators of eating disorders. Health care providers are exempt from the training requirement if

they can demonstrate that the nature of their practice does not require education about eating disorders, they have completed equivalent training, or good cause prevents them from completing the training.

**Current Law:** None.

**Background:** As shown in **Exhibit 1**, more than 136,000 health care providers licensed by five separate health occupations boards would be required to complete the specified training under the bill.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Number of Health Care Providers Impacted under HB 570**

<u>Type of Provider</u>	<u>Licensing Board</u>	<u>Licensees</u>
Nurse	Board of Nursing	94,316
Physician	Board of Physicians	26,973
Dentist	Board of Dental Examiners	5,096
Social worker	Board of Social Work Examiners	4,830
Psychologist	Board of Examiners of Psychologists	2,670
Physician assistant	Board of Physicians	2,548
<b>Total</b>		<b>136,433</b>

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Similar legislation was introduced in New York in 2009. That bill (S5011-2009) would have required provider training every four years and health care facilities to receive documentation of the training when granting or renewing privileges. The bill passed the New York State Senate, but no further action was taken.

Eating disorders are serious illnesses and can have life-threatening physical and psychological consequences, regardless of weight. Eating disorders can affect persons of any age, gender, ethnicity, or weight. According to the National Eating Disorder Association, as many as 10 million females and 1 million males nationally have anorexia or bulimia and another 25 million have binge-eating disorder.

The Academy for Eating Disorders is an international professional association that promotes leadership in eating disorders research, education, treatment, and prevention. The academy publishes *Eating Disorders: Critical Points for Early Recognition and Medical Risk Management in the Care of Individuals with Eating Disorders*, a document intended to assist health care providers with early recognition of eating disorders in their patients.

**State Fiscal Effect:** Special fund expenditures for the boards of Dental Examiners, Nursing, Physicians, Examiners of Psychologists, and Social Work Examiners increase in fiscal 2012 to alter licensure renewal forms for affected health care providers, reprogram licensing databases and online licensing systems where necessary, and make available and process a form for health care providers seeking an exemption from the training requirement. The exact amount of such expenditures cannot be reliably estimated at this time, but expenditures could be significant for some boards due to the number of licensees or the extent of changes required for electronic licensing systems. Special fund expenditures increase in future years to process exemption forms from health care providers.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Academy for Eating Disorders, National Eating Disorder Association, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 2011  
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Analysis by: Jennifer B. Chasse

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