

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 320

(Senator Conway)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

State Board of Nursing - Electrology Practice Committee - Membership

This bill lowers the number of committee members for the Electrology Practice Committee within the State Board of Nursing from five to three. The bill also reduces the number of committee members who must be licensed electrologists or licensed electrology instructors from four to two.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any change in State activities does not materially affect State finances. The savings from the bill come from reduced travel reimbursement expenses for the two committee members; these savings amount to approximately \$800 in special fund expenditures annually.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: To reduce the number of committee members, the two licensed electrologist or licensed electrology instructor members of the committee, whose second terms expired in June 2011 and June 2013, are eliminated on July 1, 2014.

Current Law/Background: Prior to 2003, the State Board of Electrologists governed the practice of electrology in Maryland. Chapter 422 of 2003 established the Electrology

Practice Committee within the State Board of Nursing due to declining numbers of licensees and financial challenges that made it infeasible to continue an autonomous board. The committee is composed of five members. Four of the members are required to be licensed electrologists or electrology instructors, and one must be a consumer member.

The committee met approximately once every two months during the last year to complete specific tasking related to development of exam questions. The committee only anticipates needing to meet twice in fiscal 2015 and twice annually, thereafter. According to the State Board of Nursing, the number of electrologists in Maryland continues to decline, with only 72 licensed electrologists remaining. (There were 85 licensed electrologists in fiscal 2010, 140 in fiscal 2002, and 213 in fiscal 1998.) Because of this decrease, the committee is having difficulty maintaining current membership requirements. Indeed, two members whose terms had expired, stayed on because replacements could not be found when two other members resigned. The bill reduces the required committee membership by two in recognition of the increasing difficulty in finding electrologists to serve as well as the limited ongoing role the committee will likely have.

Electrology, the science of permanent hair removal utilizing solid needle or probe devices, has been practiced since 1869. The practice entails the discharge of a small amount of electrical current by a fine sterile needle or probe into the base of a hair follicle. The electrical current destroys the regenerative capacity of the cells of the hair follicle. The remaining hair is then removed easily with sterile forceps, and the area is left to heal. When this is competently and skillfully accomplished, the chance for regrowth of that hair is permanently eliminated.

Despite the increasing popularity of laser hair removal, it seems unlikely that it will completely obviate the need for electrology. Though demand may be diminished, electrolysis remains the recommended method for hair removal for individuals with darker skin or lighter or thinner hair and individuals who have undergone initial laser treatments that did not successfully reduce hair growth.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 251 (Delegate Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 27, 2014
mm/ljm

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