

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 398 (Delegate Murphy, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Board of Pharmacy - Election of Officers

This bill repeals the requirement that the officers of the State Board of Pharmacy (president, secretary, and treasurer) be elected from among the board's pharmacist members only.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The change is procedural in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The State Board of Pharmacy's mission is to protect Maryland consumers and promote quality health care in the field of pharmacy by licensing pharmacists, registering pharmacy technicians, issuing permits to pharmacies and wholesale distributors, setting pharmacy practice standards, developing and enforcing regulations and legislation, resolving complaints, and educating the public.

The board comprises 12 members, 10 of whom are licensed practicing pharmacists and 2 of whom are consumers. Pharmacist members must have at least five years of professional experience and are appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, who makes recommendations to the Governor from a list compiled by various pharmacy associations. Consumer members must not

have any connection with the practice of pharmacy and are appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary and the consent of the Senate. All members are appointed for staggered four-year terms and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Generally, members continue to serve until a replacement is appointed. The board must annually elect a president, secretary, and treasurer from among its *pharmacist* members.

The board is the only health occupations board that does not allow any member of the board to serve as an officer of the board.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 228 (Senator Conway) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 31, 2014
ncs/ljm

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