

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 857 (Delegate West, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

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Health Occupations - Physicians - Specialty Certifications

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This bill authorizes an entity that grants “physician privileges” to use an active certification of a physician by a specialty certification board as criteria to determine “physician privileges.” However, an entity may not require specialty certification by a particular specialty certification board as a prerequisite for the granting of “physician privileges.”

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local finances or operations.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** “Physician privileges” means reimbursement, employment, hospital admitting privileges, or malpractice coverage.

“Specialty certification board” means certification by a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties, the National Board of Physicians or Surgeons, or any other nationally recognized accrediting organization recognized by the State Board of Physicians (MBP) that specializes in a specific area of medicine.

**Current Law/Background:** The mission of MBP is to assure quality health care in Maryland through the efficient licensure and effective discipline of health providers under

its jurisdiction, by protecting and educating clients/customers and stakeholders, and enforcing the Maryland Medical Practice Act.

Chapters 546 and 547 of 2017 prohibit MBP from requiring, as a qualification for initial licensure or a condition of license renewal, (1) certification by a nationally recognized accrediting organization that specializes in a specific area of medicine or (2) maintenance of such certification that includes continuous reexamination to measure core competencies as a requirement for maintaining certification.

MBP maintains public practitioner profiles for each licensed physician on the board's website. The profiles include medical education and practice information about the licensee, including (1) the licensee's medical school and date of graduation; (2) a description of any internship and residency training; (3) a description of any specialty board certification; (4) the name of any hospital where the licensee has medical privileges, as reported to the board; (5) the location of the licensee's primary practice setting; and (6) whether the licensee participates in Medicaid. Chapter 770 of 2017 requires each profile to also include information as to whether the physician maintains medical professional liability insurance, as reported by the physician to MBP.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2018  
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