

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 278
Finance

(Senator Waldstreicher)

Perfusionists - Licensure Exemption - Employees and Agents of Federally Designated Organ Procurement Organizations

This bill clarifies that the requirement for an individual to be licensed before practicing perfusion in Maryland does not apply to specified employees or agents of a federally designated organ procurement organization while acting within the scope of that employment to preserve or perfuse an organ from a deceased human donor for the purpose of transplantation, therapy, research, or education.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill clarifies current law.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In general, an individual must be licensed by the Maryland Board of Physicians (MBP) before the individual may practice perfusion in the State. “Practice perfusion” means to perform the functions necessary for the support, treatment, measurement, or supplementation of the cardiovascular, circulatory, or respiratory systems or other organs to ensure the safe management of physiologic functions by monitoring and analyzing the parameters of the systems under an order and the supervision of a licensed physician. “Practice perfusion” includes 30 specific procedures, including organ procurement and preservation.

To qualify for a license to practice perfusion, an individual must submit evidence either of certification as a certified perfusionist or other national certification approved by MBP or of graduation from a perfusion educational program that meets specified criteria. An individual must also meet other education or clinical requirements. An applicant who submits to the board satisfactory evidence of graduation from an approved perfusion educational program may be licensed for a single two-year term before taking the national certifying examination or another examination given or approved by MBP.

Additional Comments: MBP advises that preserving and perfusing organs extracted from a *deceased* human does not fall within the scope of practice for perfusionists.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 286 (Delegate Shetty) - Health and Government Operations.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 2023
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Analysis by: Amber R. Gundlach

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