

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 980 (Delegate V. Turner, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

**Maryland Board of Physicians - Authority to Issue Temporary Licenses and
Radiation Therapy, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine Technology, and Radiology
Assistance Advisory Committee**

This bill repeals the authority of the State Board of Physicians (MBP) to issue temporary licenses to practice radiation therapy, radiography, or nuclear medicine technology and all provisions related to such temporary licenses. The bill also reduces the membership of the Radiation Therapy, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine Technology Advisory, and Radiology Assistance Committee by removing the radiologist assistant. The bill corrects the definition of “practice radiation assistance” by replacing the term “medical radiation technology” with “radiography” and corrects the name of the committee.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

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. The board has regulatory authority over physicians, physician assistants, radiographers, radiation therapists, nuclear medicine

technologists, radiologist assistants, respiratory care practitioners, polysomnographic technologists, athletic trainers, and perfusionists.

A radiographer uses ionizing radiation to assist in the diagnosis or localization of disease or injury or to perform tumor localization radiography. Radiation therapists perform tumor localization radiography and apply therapeutic doses of radiation. Nuclear medicine technologists prepare and administer radiopharmaceuticals to and conduct in vivo detection and measurement of radioactivity to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of disease or injury. Radiologist assistants are advanced practitioners of medical radiation technology licensed to perform fluoroscopy and selected radiology procedures, patient assessment, and patient management under the supervision of a radiologist.

The committee comprises four physicians, one radiation therapist, one radiographer, one radiologist assistant, one nuclear medicine technologist, one consumer, and one MBP member. The duties of the committee are to (1) make recommendations to the board concerning a code of ethics, standards of care, and requirements for licensure for the practice of radiation therapy, radiography, nuclear medicine technology, and radiology assistance and (2) on request, review applications for licensure and make recommendations to the board.

MBP indicates that it does not and cannot issue temporary licenses for any profession that it regulates. Chapter 328 of 2008 (HB 1517) required radiologist assistants to be licensed by MBP. However, since that requirement, there have been only two individuals licensed as radiologist assistants in the State. According to the board, neither licensee is currently interested in serving on the committee. The board wishes to revisit committee membership when a larger population of radiologist assistants is present in the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 954 (Senator Benson) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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mlm/ljm

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