

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 241

(Senator Conway)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

**State Board of Nursing - Changes to the Electrology Practice Committee and
Licensing Requirements**

This bill establishes that a quorum is a majority of the full authorized membership of the Electrology Practice Committee of the State Board of Nursing. In addition, the bill specifies when meetings can be held. Members of the committee are entitled to compensation, at a rate determined by the board, and reimbursement for travel expenses under State travel regulations. An applicant for a license to practice electrology must pass a national certification examination approved by the board and a clinical examination administered by the board. Additionally, the bill requires the board to send renewal notices to electrology licensees three months before an electrology license expires and extends, until January 2011, the date by which the board must require renewal applicants to have obtained criminal history record checks. Additional criminal history record checks will be performed every 12 years.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal increase in special fund expenditures to compensate committee members under the bill's provisions. Negligible increase in special fund revenues from new clinical exam fees.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Electrology is the science of permanent hair removal. A sterile needle or probe is inserted into the hair follicle and a small amount of electric energy is discharged, destroying the hair growth tissue. The hair is then removed, and left to heal. When electrology is accomplished, the regenerative ability of the hair follicle is eliminated.

In 1978, the Electrology Practice Committee began as the State Board of Electrologists (Chapter 851 of 1978). On July 1, 2003, it moved under the State Board of Nursing and assumed its current name (Chapter 422 of 2003). The committee adopts and revises standards of electrology practice for registered electrologists and prescribes standards for educational programs leading to licensure. It examines and licenses qualified applicants. The committee also conducts hearings on charges calling for discipline of a licensed electrologist by penalty, denial, revocation, or suspension of a license, and pursues prosecution of all persons who violate the Electrology Practice Act.

An applicant for licensure as an electrologist must be of good moral character and at least 18 years old. In addition, the applicant must be a high school graduate or have completed the equivalent education and have satisfactorily completed:

- an electrology education program taught by a licensed instructor that includes 600 hours of instruction time and that has been approved by the board; or
- an electrology education program in another state that the board determines is substantially equivalent.

In addition, the applicant must pass an exam approved by the board and submit to a criminal history background check. Renewal applicants are subject to random background checks.

There are approximately 90 licensed electrologists in the State. This number is decreasing rapidly because the practice of electrology is being replaced by laser hair removal. Nevertheless, all five positions on the committee are currently filled.

State Fiscal Effect: The Electrology Practice Committee is required to meet as necessary, and in the future, the committee is expected to meet less frequently due to the decline in new electrologist licensees. *For illustrative purposes only*, if the board plans on compensating committee members at a rate of \$100 per meeting to establish consistency with compensation received by members on the State Board of Nursing and the committee meets quarterly, then \$2,000, plus travel expenses would be necessary to compensate the committee's five board members on an annual basis. This estimate assumes all members attend every scheduled meeting. During license renewal periods,

the board may have to meet more frequently, resulting in an expenditure increase above \$2,000. It is also possible the committee may meet less frequently. As a result of the bill's new clinical examination requirement, special fund revenues are expected to be negligible as the board advises the number of new candidates for licensure subject to that requirement is expected to be just one or two per year. Therefore, the workload associated with the clinical examination requirement can be handled with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 215 (Delegates Nathan-Pulliam and Eckardt) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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a/mcr

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