

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1430 (Delegate B. Barnes, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Health Occupations - Podiatric Physicians

This bill alters references to “podiatrist” to be “podiatric physician” throughout the Maryland Code. The bill further establishes that references to “podiatrist” are changed to “podiatric physician” in every law, executive order, rule, regulation, policy, or document created by any official, employee, or unit of the State. The publishers of the Annotated Code of Maryland, subject to the approval of the Department of Legislative Services, must correct any statutory references that are rendered incorrect by the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect local finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: A person may not practice, attempt to practice, or offer to practice podiatry in the State unless licensed by the State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners. “Practice podiatry” means to diagnose or surgically, medically, or mechanically treat the human foot or ankle, the anatomical structures that attach to the human foot, or the soft tissue below the mid-calf.

In order to qualify for a license to practice podiatry, among other requirements, an applicant must be a graduate of a school or college of podiatry that is accredited by the Council on

Education of the American Podiatric Medical Association and that is approved by the board; an applicant must also pass an examination given by the board.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine, a podiatrist is a “Doctor of Podiatric Medicine” (DPM) and is also referred to as a “podiatric physician” or “podiatric surgeon.” Podiatrists are defined as physicians by the federal government. DPMs are specialists in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of lower extremity disorders, diseases, and injuries; within the profession, DPMs can specialize in areas such as surgery, orthopedics, and public health.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine; Department of Legislative Services

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