

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 744

(Senator Eckardt)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

State Board of Nursing - Certified Nursing Assistant Advisory Committee -
Membership and Meetings

This bill alters membership and meeting requirements for the State Board of Nursing (BON) Certified Nursing Assistant Advisory Committee. Specifically, the bill (1) clarifies that BON must appoint an alternate for each of the *six* nursing assistant members; (2) specifies additional requirements for advisory committee members; (3) specifies the terms of members; (4) requires the board to fill any vacancy within 60 days; (5) requires the advisory committee to meet at the request of the executive director; and (6) defines a quorum as the majority of the full membership of the advisory committee.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The changes are procedural in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: BON's Certified Nursing Assistant Advisory Committee is responsible for (1) evaluating training programs and making recommendations for approval by BON; (2) developing and recommending regulations to enforce laws applicable to nursing assistants and medication technicians; (3) evaluating candidates and recommending action to BON; (4) reviewing investigations of complaints against nursing

assistants or medication technicians and making recommendations to BON for disciplinary action; (5) keeping records of its proceedings; and (6) submitting an annual report to BON.

The committee comprises 15 members: 6 nursing assistants; 3 registered nurses; 1 administrator from a licensed health care facility; 1 licensed practical nurse; 1 individual who teaches a nursing assistant course; 1 consumer member; 1 representative of the Maryland Department of Health; and 1 certified medication technician.

The board must appoint an alternate for *each of the three* nursing assistant members (although there are *six* nursing assistant members) in the event that the member is unable to discharge the duties of the committee. BON may remove a member for incompetence or misconduct or if the member is absent from two successive committee meetings without adequate reason. A term on the committee is four years. The committee must meet at least once a month.

The bill clarifies that the board must appoint an alternate for each of the *six* nursing assistant members and specifies that each member of the advisory committee must (1) be a U.S. citizen; (2) be a Maryland resident; and (3) have practiced in their health occupation for at least five years immediately preceding their appointment. The bill also specifies the terms of members. A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies, rather than one additional full term. At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies. A member may not serve more than two consecutive full terms.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2021
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