

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 583 (Delegate Cardin)  
Health and Government Operations

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**Health Insurance – Podiatrists – Reimbursement for Infusion of Medication**

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This bill requires an individual, group, or blanket health insurance policy or contract that provides reimbursement for a service within the lawful scope of practice of a licensed podiatrist to provide for quarterly adjustments to reimbursement for the infusion of a medication. Adjustments must be made on the first day of January, April, July, and October annually. **The bill takes effect January 1, 2024, and applies to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after that date.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Minimal increase in special fund revenues for the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) in FY 2024 only from the \$125 rate and form filing fee. Review of filings can be handled with existing MIA budgeted resources. Any impact on the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits program is indeterminate but is not anticipated to be significant.

**Local Effect:** Any impact on the cost of fully insured medical plans purchased by some local governments is anticipated to be minimal. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** If an individual, group, or blanket health insurance policy or contract provides for reimbursement for a service that is within the lawful scope of practice of a licensed podiatrist, the insured or any other person covered by or entitled to reimbursement

under the policy or contract is entitled to the same amount of reimbursement for the service, regardless of whether the service is performed by a licensed physician or a licensed podiatrist.

An individual must be licensed by the State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners before the individual may practice podiatry in this State. "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.

**Additional Comments:** Some medications, including those administered via infusion by a licensed podiatrist, increase in cost on a quarterly basis. Commercial insurers may not routinely adjust their reimbursement rates to reflect these increases.

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### **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Budget and Management; Maryland Health Benefit Exchange; Maryland Insurance Administration; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2023  
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