



## **Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget**

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### **18 VAC 105-30 – Certification for Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents Department of Health Professions**

March 22, 2002

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The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 9-6.14:7.1.G of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 25 (98). Section 9-6.14:7.1.G requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. The analysis presented below represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.

### **Summary of the Proposed Regulation**

The Board of Optometry proposes several changes to the regulations governing the practice of optometrists certified to use therapeutic pharmaceutical agents. The proposed regulations:

- Specify that at least two of the continuing education hours required for licensure renewal must be in courses directly related to prescribing and administering prescription drugs;
- Allow licensees whose certificates have expired to reinstate their certificate for \$300 rather than go through the reapplication process (\$275 plus \$50 late renewal fee); and
- Reduce the late renewal fee from \$50 to \$25, add fees for duplicate certification (\$10), duplicate wall certificate (\$25), and increase the returned check fee from \$15 to \$25.

## **Estimated Economic Impact**

### Continuing Education Requirements

The proposed regulation specifies that at least two of the continuing education hours required for licensure renewal must be in courses directly related to prescribing and administering prescription drugs. There is no empirical evidence currently available, however, to determine how effective continuing education is on improving the quality of care provided by optometrists.

### Reinstatement and Late Renewal Fees

Current policy requires all individuals who do not renew their certifications within thirty days of the expiration date to reapply for licensure. This policy does not differentiate between persons who are merely late in renewing their certifications from persons who have chosen to let their certification lapse for a lengthy period of time (i.e., someone who had left the state to practice in another jurisdiction, and then has returned to Virginia). The proposed regulation reduces the late fee, from \$50 to \$25, for individuals renewing within one year of the expiration date and requires reinstatement for the renewal of any certifications (now lapsed) beyond that time. The proposed reinstatement fee of \$300 covers the costs of application processing and document review, and the renewal fee.

### Fee Changes

The proposed fees (i.e., \$10 for licensure verification, \$20 for late renewal of a professional designation) are intended to represent accurately the actual cost of service and provide consistency across boards within the Department of Health Professions. By charging individuals for the full costs incurred on their behalf, the proposed changes are both more efficient and equitable.

## **Businesses and Entities Affected**

There are approximately 1,300 doctors of optometry currently licensed in Virginia, 940 of whom are certified to use therapeutic pharmaceutical agents.

## **Localities Particularly Affected**

The proposed changes to this regulation should not disproportionately affect any

particular locality.

### **Projected Impact on Employment**

The proposed changes to this regulation are not expected to have any significant impact on employment in Virginia.

### **Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property**

The proposed changes to this regulation are not expected to have any significant effects on the use and value of private property in Virginia.