



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

18 VAC 90-60 – Regulations Governing the Registration of Medication Aides
Department of Health Professions
August 28, 2007

Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation

The Board of Nursing (Board) proposes to amend its Regulations Governing the Registration of Medication Aides to reduce, from two years to one, the time that medication aides have to reinstate their registration after it lapses. The Board also proposes to change the language regarding continuing education requirements in the section of this regulation that governs reinstatement of registration. Individuals who are reinstating their licenses will need to provide proof of completion for not more than eight hours of continuing education since their last renewal.

Result of Analysis

The benefits likely exceed the costs for all proposed changes.

Estimated Economic Impact

The Board of Nursing recently finished promulgating new regulations to govern the registration of medication aides (these regulations became effective on July 1, 2007). When these regulations were first proposed, they included a biennial renewal cycle and included provision for anticipated continuing education requirements over the two year period of registration. During the final stage of executive branch review for these regulations, they were amended to allow for annual, rather than biennial, renewal. Renewal fees were correspondingly cut in half (from \$50 to \$25) and continuing education requirements were restated so that not more than eight hours of qualifying education per year was required (rather than not more than 16 hours per biennium). These changes were made because medication aide work is a lower

paying, entry level, job which individuals tend to move away from doing fairly quickly. A shorter renewal cycle with correspondingly lower fees would tend to benefit regulants who don't end up working as medication aides for several years. The language in the reinstatement section of the regulations was overlooked, however, when the language was being amended to conform to a yearly schedule.

The Board now proposes to amend the reinstatement section of these regulations so that regulants have one year, rather than two, to reinstate their registration if they neglect to renew at the proper time. This change will realign the regulations so that, identically to the last proposed stage, regulants will have one additional renewal cycle to reinstate their registration. At the same time, the Board proposes to restate continuing education requirements in this section so that individuals reinstating their registration will have to complete not more than eight hours of education per year rather than not more than 16 hours every two years.

This registration program is very new and no medication aides have been registered yet. No individuals will need to renew, much less reinstate, their registration in the near future. These proposed regulatory changes will likely have no adverse economic impact on the regulated community.

Businesses and Entities Affected

These proposed regulatory changes will likely affect any individuals who will be registered as medication aides in the future. Since the Department of Health Professions (DHP) has just begun the process of approving programs to train medication aides, they do not have information on the anticipated demand for this type of registration.

Localities Particularly Affected

No locality will be particularly affected by this proposed regulatory change.

Projected Impact on Employment

This proposed regulatory change will likely not affect employment in the Commonwealth.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

This proposed regulation will likely have no substantive impact on the use or value of private property in the Commonwealth.

Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects

Small businesses in the Commonwealth are unlikely to incur any extra expenses on account of this proposed regulatory change.

Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact

Small businesses in the Commonwealth are unlikely to incur any extra expenses on account of this proposed regulatory change.

Real Estate Development Cost

This proposed regulation is unlikely to affect real estate development costs in the Commonwealth.

Legal Mandate

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.H of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 36 (06). Section 2.2-4007.H 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. Further, if the proposed regulation has adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the

regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.