

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 1490

PRINTER NO. 3312

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

June 22, 2023

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Gallagher

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 1490 amends the Acupuncture Licensure Act, further providing for the regulation of the practice of acupuncture.

The bill adds specific definitions for "East Asian herbology", "herbal therapy" and "practitioner of Oriental medicine" to the Acupuncture Licensure Act.

This legislation creates a licensure exemption for individuals licensed to practice acupuncture in another state for the limited purpose of attending a continuing education course in the Commonwealth. An acupuncturist may practice Oriental medicine if licensed to do so and has completed an education program and passed an exam that includes the study of East Asian herbology or has obtained an approved national certification in East Asian herbology or Oriental medicine.

House Bill 1490 allows an acupuncturist licensed in another state to practice in the Commonwealth for no more than 60 days during a declared state of emergency. Acupuncturists and practitioners of Oriental medicine shall be required to wear a tag or badge displaying their name and title. It shall be unlawful to hold oneself out to be an acupuncturist or a practitioner of acupuncture without a license.

Acupuncturists must complete 30 hours of mandatory continuing education during each two-year license period. Nationally certified education courses shall be considered as creditable, in addition to any other board approved courses. Credit may not be given for any course in office management or practice building. A first-time applicant shall be exempted from the continuing education requirements for the biennial renewal period following initial licensure. A licensed physician who is also an acupuncturist shall complete at least nine credit hours of mandatory continuing education during each two-year license period.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the Department of State, House Bill 1490 requires minor changes to the Pennsylvania Licensing System that can be accomplished with current resources.