

**Department of Planning and Budget  
2012 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB 345

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron:** O'Bannon, John M. III

**3. Committee:** Health, Welfare and Institutions

**4. Title:** Dietitians; requires Board of Medicine to promulgate regulations for licensure

**5. Summary:** The proposed legislation requires the Board of Medicine to promulgate regulations for the licensure of dietitians in the Commonwealth; provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to practice as or hold himself out to be a dietitian or to use in conjunction with his name the letters or words "dietitian," "L.D.," or "Licensed Dietitian" without a license issued by the Board of Medicine beginning July 1, 2013; and establishes the Advisory Board for Dietitians to advise the Board of Medicine regarding the regulation of dietitians in the Commonwealth.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**7. No Fiscal Impact Cannot Be Determined** (See item 8)

**8. Fiscal Implications:** Although the regulation of dietitians will have a fiscal impact on the Board of Medicine, the amount and impact on licensure fees is unknown. Costs for the Board of Medicine will increase in licensing and disciplinary functions as well as the operation of another advisory board. The fee structure for professions regulated by the Department of Health Professions (DHP) is established as to offset the anticipated costs of the board. Although the department does not have an exact estimate as to the number of registered dietitians in the Commonwealth, it believes there are several thousand. Therefore, the addition of this profession will necessitate an additional full-time position in licensing for the Board. Costs for a licensing specialist would increase expenditures for the Board by an estimated \$55,000 per year.

Each profession regulated by the DHP has a dedicated advisory board, which costs approximately \$2,500 per year. This amount includes four annual meetings for the five advisory members. In addition, there is the cost of licensure and disciplinary functions. It is unknown whether the anticipated revenue generated by licensure of this profession will be adequate to support an additional advisory board and the costs associated with licensure and discipline.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Health Professions

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None

**Date:** 1/23/12

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