

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 413  
 Economic Matters

(Delegates Love and Krysiak)

Finance

State Board for Professional Engineers - Repeal of Authority to Issue Limited Licenses

This bill repeals the authority of the State Board for Professional Engineers to issue a limited license to practice engineering.

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Special fund revenue could increase by up to \$1,300 in FY 2008 if all limited license holders qualify and apply for reciprocal licensure. Out-years reflect annualization. No effect on expenditures.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
SF Revenue	\$1,300	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,750
Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	\$1,300	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,750

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

Analysis

**Current Law:** An individual is required to be licensed by the State Board for Professional Engineers before practicing engineering in the State. A limited license may be issued to a nonresident applicant who is licensed to practice engineering in another state. The limited license authorizes the licensee to practice engineering only for the

specific job for which the license is issued. The cost of the license is \$78, with a term of up to one year as determined by the board.

An individual who practices engineering without a license may be guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a maximum penalty of \$500 and six months imprisonment. The board may also impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000.

**Background:** Demand for limited licensing has decreased with the standardization of licensing requirements among states, making it easier for licensed professionals to meet the qualifications for reciprocal licensure. Since 2000, the number of limited licenses issued by the State Board for Professional Engineers has decreased from 46 to 35, while the number of reciprocal licenses has increased from 127 to 375.

To qualify for a reciprocal professional engineering license in Maryland, an applicant must be licensed in another state or foreign country with requirements equivalent to those established by the State Board for Professional Engineers. Applicants must pay the \$50 application fee established by the board plus the \$78 license fee.

**State Fiscal Effect:** Special fund revenue could increase by up to \$1,750 per year and \$1,300 in fiscal 2008 due to the October 1 effective date. This estimate assumes the number of limited licenses issued would otherwise remain at 35 a year and that all limited licensees would qualify and apply for a reciprocal license. All revenue generated by the State Board for Professional Engineers is distributed to the State Occupational and Professional Licensing Design Boards' Fund, a special nonlapsing fund administered by the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Office of Administrative Hearings; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 13, 2007  
ncs/ljm

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