

CHAPTER 413

(Senate Bill 514)

AN ACT concerning

State Board of Law Examiners – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

FOR the purpose of continuing the State Board of Law Examiners in accordance with the provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (Sunset Law) by extending to a certain date the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board; requiring that an evaluation of the Board and the statutes and regulations that relate to the Board be performed on or before a certain date; increasing the maximum Bar examination fee that the Court of Appeals may impose on an applicant; ~~requiring the Court of Appeals to implement the initial increase of certain fees in a certain manner; requiring the Court of Appeals to report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date;~~ *stating the intent of the General Assembly concerning certain fee revenue and certain expenditures;* and generally relating to the State Board of Law Examiners.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Business Occupations and Professions
Section 10–208 and 10–218
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 8–403(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 8–403(b)(38)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Business Occupations and Professions

10–208.

(a) An applicant for admission to the Bar shall submit to the Board a petition to the Court of Appeals on the form that the Board provides.

(b) An applicant shall pay to the Board:

(1) an examination fee ~~not exceeding \$150~~ **\$400**, as set by the Court of Appeals, **NOT EXCEEDING:**

(I) \$250 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009; AND

(II) \$400 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 AND THEREAFTER; and

(2) any other fee set by the Court of Appeals.

10-218.

Subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act, this subtitle shall terminate and be of no effect after July 1, [2010] **2020**.

Article – State Government

8-403.

(a) On or before December 15 of the 2nd year before the evaluation date of a governmental activity or unit, the Legislative Policy Committee, based on a preliminary evaluation, may waive as unnecessary the evaluation required under this section.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (a) of this section, on or before the evaluation date for the following governmental activities or units, an evaluation shall be made of the following governmental activities or units and the statutes and regulations that relate to the governmental activities or units:

(38) Law Examiners, State Board of (§ 10-201 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article: July 1, [2009] **2019**);

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the initial increase in the Bar examination fee, authorized under Section 1 of this Act, shall be limited to an amount that will allow the State Board of Law Examiners to cover expenses associated with the administration of the Bar examination. To ensure that expenses associated with the State Board of Law Examiners are covered by fee revenue, the Court of Appeals shall increase other fees, such as application fees.~~

~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Court of Appeals shall phase in subsequent increases in fees established by the Court of Appeals and associated with the State Board of Law Examiners in a manner such that fee revenues of the Board recover at least 90 percent of its operating costs in fiscal 2014.~~

~~SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1, 2008, the Court of Appeals shall report to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on a plan to increase fees and generate fee revenue for the general fund sufficient to cover the expenditures associated with the State Board of Law Examiners.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the expenditures associated with the State Board of Law Examiners be covered by fee revenue to the extent possible.

SECTION ~~5~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2008.