

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1274
Economic Matters

(Delegate Haddaway, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety - Inspections - Antique Boilers or Pressure
Vessels

This bill authorizes inspection of an exhibition or antique boiler or pressure vessel by a private inspector certified by the American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) and commissioned by the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors. If the inspector finds that the unit meets all applicable requirements, the chief boiler inspector must issue a certificate to the owner that authorizes use of the antique boiler or pressure vessel in an exhibit or show for noncommercial purposes.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any reduction in revenues to the State Board of Boiler Rules as a result of this bill is assumed to be minimal.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Board of Boiler Rules is charged with formulating regulations for the safe construction, use, installation, maintenance, repair, and inspection of boilers and pressure vessels in the State. The chief boiler inspector is required to enforce these regulations and issue certificates that note the date of inspection and specify the maximum pressure under which a boiler or pressure vessel may be operated. This

certificate is generally valid for a period between 12 and 24 months, depending on the type of unit. The chief boiler inspector is required to keep detailed records of all units subject to State regulation.

A State inspector is required to make certificate inspections of boilers and pressure vessels unless the unit is owned or operated by a person who employs a commissioned special inspector. Insurers of boilers and pressure vessels are also required to employ a commissioned special inspector to inspect units that they insure. An inspection by a special inspector exempts the user or owner from the payment of State inspection fees, which range from \$10 to \$500. Routine State inspections are provided without charge.

Requirements do not apply to a boiler or pressure vessel located on a farm and used solely for agricultural purposes, a heating boiler or pressure vessel located in a private residence or apartment building with fewer than six units, or a pressure vessel that contains only water under pressure for domestic supply purposes. Requirements also do not apply to an exhibition or antique boiler or pressure vessel brought temporarily into the State for exhibition or show if the unit has been inspected and issued a certificate of safety by a state with comparable safety requirements.

Background: ASNT is a technical society of 9,000 members. Professionals certified by the society use mechanical and visual testing – as well as radiation, electromagnetic, sonic, and thermal testing – to detect variations in structure, identify cracks or other physical discontinuities, and measure the thickness of components of industrial products.

Individuals must meet training, education, and experience requirements to qualify for certification by ASNT. A Level II certificate holder is authorized to calibrate equipment, conduct tests, and evaluate results. A Professional Level III certificate holder is authorized to establish techniques, interpret codes, designate appropriate techniques, and approve or prepare procedures for inspection. ASNT certification is not specific to inspection of boilers and pressure vessels, though an applicant may be additionally examined in several industrial sectors, including pressure equipment.

Inspectors certified by ASNT would be also required to meet the standards of the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors, which is the industry standard for boilers, pressure vessels, and their safe operation and inspection. The State Board of Boiler Rules currently recognizes a commission from the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors as one possible criterion for a special inspector commission from the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 840 (Senator Colburn) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; American Society for Nondestructive Testing; Department of Legislative Services

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