

Chapter 236

(Senate Bill 145)

AN ACT concerning

State Board of Examiners in Optometry – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

FOR the purpose of continuing the State Board of Examiners in Optometry in accordance with the provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law) by extending to a certain date the termination provisions relating to statutory authority 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; requiring the Board to submit a certain report on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the State Board of Examiners in Optometry.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 11–602
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 8–403(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 8–403(b)(45)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Health Occupations

11–602.

Subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Program Evaluation Act, this title and all rules and regulations adopted under this title shall terminate and be of no effect after July 1, [2013] **2023**.

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:

(45) Optometry, State Board of Examiners in (§ 11–201 of the Health Occupations Article: July 1, [2012] **2022**);

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1, 2011, the State Board of Examiners in Optometry shall submit a report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on the actions the Board has taken to:

(1) Monitor the decline in new licenses issued and the trends in the renewal of previously issued licenses and include any recommendations the Board has made to address the ~~decline~~ Board's findings;

~~(2) Track developments in the scope of practice for optometry and their potential impact on entry into the profession in order to ensure that access to eye care in Maryland does not become a problem;~~

~~(3)~~ Review future revenue and expenditure trends to determine if a fee increase may be necessary; and

~~(4)~~ (3) Implement a biennial renewal cycle to maintain a more consistent fund balance.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2010.

Approved by the Governor, May 4, 2010.