

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 290

(Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Labor,
Licensing and Regulation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

State Board for Professional Engineers - Examinations

This departmental bill eliminates references to the method of delivery and duration of examinations that individuals must pass in order to be licensed by the State Board for Professional Engineers (*i.e.*, references to “an eight-hour written” examination are removed from the State’s licensing law for professional engineers).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is technical in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The State Board for Professional Engineers regulates the practice of engineering in the State and has authority over a variety of disciplines collectively known as engineering. Maryland law defines the practice of engineering as the provision of any service or creative work that requires education, training, and experience in the application of mathematical, physical, and engineering sciences and the principles and methods of engineering analysis and design.

In general, an individual must meet specified education, experience, and character qualifications in order to be licensed as a professional engineer by the board. In addition, individuals must pass one or both of the two separate examinations required by the board: (1) an eight-hour written exam in the fundamentals of engineering; and (2) an eight-hour written exam in the principles and practice of engineering.

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing professional licensure for engineers and surveyors. NCEES develops, administers, and scores examinations used for engineering and surveying licensure in all 50 states. According to DLLR, NCEES is likely to transition to a computer-based testing system. This change, when it occurs, will affect both the timeframe within which an applicant has to complete the examinations and the method of taking the examinations. DLLR advises that in anticipation of the upcoming computer-based delivery of examinations it is important to strike references to “written” examinations and also to the length of the examinations. Without these changes, the board would lack the proper statutory authority to administer a computer-based exam for professional engineers.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2011
mm/mcr

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Board for Professional Engineers - Examinations

BILL NUMBER: SB 290

PREPARED BY: Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.