

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 183 (Delegate Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Board of Nursing - Electrologists - Examination and License Term

This bill specifies that each applicant for licensure as an electrologist must pass an examination approved by the State Board of Nursing and a clinical examination approved by the board. The bill also extends the term of an electrologist license from one to two years beginning January 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues for the State Board of Nursing increase in FY 2013 and 2015 and decrease correspondingly in FY 2014 and 2016 as the board transitions from annual to biennial licensure of electrologists. Thus, total revenues associated with licensing electrologists are not affected over a two-year period. Special fund expenditures decrease minimally in FY 2014 and 2016 as the board no longer handles license renewal in even years due to biennial renewal.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: To obtain an electrologist license, an applicant must be of good moral character, be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or its equivalent, have completed a board-approved electrology education program, submit to a criminal history records check, submit applicable fees and forms, and satisfy examination requirements. Specifically, each applicant must take and pass a national certification examination developed by the American Electrology Association and a clinical examination administered by the board. A license to practice electrology is valid for one year.

Background: Electrology is the science of permanent hair removal utilizing solid needle or probe devices to discharge a small amount of electrical current into the base of a hair follicle. Electrologists are regulated by the Electrology Practice Committee (EPC) under the State Board of Nursing. All electrologists currently renew their licenses in October of each year. In fiscal 2010, there were 85 licensed electrologists in Maryland.

In its 2010 preliminary sunset evaluation of EPC, the Department of Legislative Services found that, although there have been no new applicants for an electrologist license since fiscal 2005, there is currently no State examination available, the board is not presently administering a State law portion of the examination, and the statutory and regulatory examination requirements of the board could be clearer.

Per Chapter 482 of 2006, a license to practice electrology is valid for one year. Prior to this Act, a license was valid for two years; however, in practice, EPC reports that licenses were renewed on an annual basis. EPC recently recommended to the board that electrologists renew on a biennial license renewal schedule. According to EPC, the continuing education requirement for electrologists would become 20 hours every two years (rather than 10 annually) under biennial licensure renewal.

According to the board, due to the low number of new applicants for licensure and contractual issues with the company that sells the national licensing exam, the board has determined that it would be easier to administer its own exam, to be developed by EPC. The bill allows the board to either purchase an exam or administer one that it develops.

State Fiscal Effect: Currently, electrologists renew their licenses in October for the period October 1 through September 30. Under the bill, beginning in October 2013, electrologists renew for a two-year period – October 1, 2013, through September 30, 2015. Thus, in fiscal 2013 and 2015, special fund revenues for the board double as electrologists submit a \$200 renewal fee to cover the new biennial license. Special fund revenues decline correspondingly in fiscal 2014 and 2016 as no licensees renew in those years. Total revenues associated with licensing electrologists over a two-year period are not anticipated to change.

Likewise, special fund expenditures decrease minimally in fiscal 2014 and 2016 as the board no longer processes renewal licenses in those years.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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