

## Article - State Government

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§10–110.

(a) Except for subsection (d) of this section, this section does not apply to a regulation adopted under § 10–111(b) of this subtitle.

(b) At least 15 days before the date a proposed regulation is submitted to the Maryland Register for publication under § 10–112 of this subtitle, the promulgating unit shall submit to the State Children’s Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council established under § 13–1503 of the Health – General Article for review any proposed regulations identified by the promulgating unit as having an impact on environmental hazards affecting the health of children.

(c) At least 15 days before the date a proposed regulation is submitted to the Maryland Register for publication under § 10–112 of this subtitle, the promulgating unit shall submit to the Advisory Council on the Impact of Regulations on Small Businesses established under § 3–502 of the Economic Development Article for review each proposed regulation and the estimated impact of the proposed regulation on small businesses identified by the promulgating unit.

(d) (1) At least 15 days before the date a proposed regulation is submitted to the Maryland Register for publication under § 10–112 of this subtitle, the promulgating unit shall submit the proposed regulation to the Committee and the Department of Legislative Services.

(2) (i) If the proposed regulation, either in whole or in part, submitted to the Committee and the Department of Legislative Services in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection includes an increase or decrease in a fee for a license to practice any business activity, business or health occupation, or business or health profession licensed or otherwise regulated under State law, the promulgating unit shall include clearly written explanatory reasons that justify the increase or decrease in the fee.

(ii) If a regulation submitted under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph proposes an increase in a fee for a license, the written justification also shall include information about:

1. the amount of money needed by the promulgating unit to operate effectively or to eliminate an imbalance between the revenues and expenditures of the unit;
2. the most recent year in which the promulgating unit had last increased its fees;
3. the structure of the promulgating unit as to whether

it is one that retains the license fees it receives or passes them through to a national organization or association that creates and administers a uniform licensing examination that is taken by anyone in the United States who is seeking a license to practice a particular occupation or profession or business activity issued by the promulgating unit;

4. measures taken by the promulgating unit to avoid or mitigate the necessity of a fee increase and the results of those measures;

5. special circumstances about the activities and responsibilities of the promulgating unit, including investigations of individuals licensed by the unit, that have had an adverse impact on the unit's operating expenses;

6. consideration given by the promulgating unit to the hardship a license fee increase may have on individuals and trainees licensed or regulated by the unit; and

7. actions taken by the promulgating unit to elicit the opinions of the individuals who are licensed by the promulgating unit and the members of the public as to the effectiveness and performance of the promulgating unit.

(3) If the promulgating unit estimates that the proposed regulation will have a significant small business impact, the unit shall:

(i) identify each provision in the proposed regulation that will have a significant small business impact;

(ii) quantify or describe the range of potential costs of the proposed regulation on small businesses in the State;

(iii) identify how many small businesses may be impacted by the proposed regulation;

(iv) identify any alternative provisions the unit considered that may have a less significant impact on small businesses in the State and the reason the alternative was not proposed;

(v) identify the beneficial impacts of the regulation, including to public health, safety, and welfare, or to the environment; and

(vi) coordinate with the Advisory Council not later than the date the proposed regulation is submitted to the Committee, the Department of Legislative Services, and the Advisory Council in accordance with this section.

(e) (1) The Committee is not required to take any action with respect to a proposed regulation submitted to it pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

(2) Failure by the Committee to approve or disapprove the proposed

regulation during the period of preliminary review provided by subsection (d) of this section may not be construed to mean that the Committee approves or disapproves the proposed regulation.

(3) During the preliminary review period, the Committee may take any action relating to the proposed regulation that the Committee is authorized to take under §§ 10–111.1 and 10–112 of this subtitle.

(4) (i) If the Advisory Council submits to the Committee and the Department of Legislative Services a written statement of its findings that a proposed regulation will have a significant small business impact as required by § 3–505 of the Economic Development Article, the Committee and the Department of Legislative Services shall review the findings.

(ii) After notification that a proposed regulation will have a significant small business impact, any member of the Committee may request a hearing on the proposed regulation.

(iii) If a member requests a hearing, the Committee:

1. shall hold a hearing; and
2. may request that the promulgating unit delay adoption of the regulation.

(f) Prior to the date specified in subsection (d) of this section, the promulgating unit is encouraged to:

(1) submit the proposed regulation to the Committee and to consult with the Committee concerning the form and content of that regulation; and

(2) submit the proposed regulation to the Advisory Council and to consult with the Advisory Council concerning the estimated small business impact of the regulation and ways to reduce the small business impact.

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