

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 12

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

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

**Professional Engineers – Qualifications for Licensure – Experience Requirement**

This departmental bill modifies the work experience requirement for the nonacademic licensure option for professional engineers. Specifically, the requirement that 5 of the 12 years of work experience be while the individual is in “responsible charge” is repealed. The overall work experience requirement of 12 years is unchanged.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill does not substantively alter the number of individuals anticipated to be licensed as professional engineers.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** The State Board for Professional Engineers in MDL licenses and regulates professional engineers. In addition to other requirements, an individual may qualify for licensure as a professional engineer by meeting one of three combinations of educational and experience requirements. Each of the three options requires a specified amount of work experience in engineering that is satisfactory to the board, depending on the level of educational attainment. Generally, the work experience requirement is either

4, 8, or 12 years, with progressively more work experience required as educational attainment decreases. For the nonacademic option, the applicant must have been in responsible charge for 5 of the required 12 years of work experience. “Responsible charge” means direct control and personal supervision of engineering that requires initiative, professional skill, and independent judgment, and includes responsible engineering teaching.

MDL advises that removing the “responsible charge” requirement under the nonacademic licensing option avoids a situation where an unlicensed individual, in order to obtain a license, must act in violation of statute by supervising individuals practicing engineering.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 8, 2020  
rh/mcr Third Reader - March 15, 2020  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 15, 2020

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## ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Business Occupations and Professions – Professional Engineers – Experience

BILL NUMBER: SB 12

PREPARED BY: Joseph H. Cullingford

### 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

N/A