

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 306

(Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Committee)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

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State Board of Dental Examiners – Sunset Extension and Report

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This bill extends the termination date of the State Board of Dental Examiners (BDE) by 10 years from July 1, 2021, to July 1, 2031, subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (MPEA). Uncodified language requires BDE, by December 1, 2020, to report to specified committees of the General Assembly regarding (1) the status of staff vacancies, and the strategy and means used to fill vacancies, and (2) the complaint and enforcement process for the past five years, including the numbers and types of complaints filed, the resolution rate, BDE’s process and timeline for handling complaints, and any other issues related to the complaint and enforcement process.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** BDE can submit the required report using existing budgeted resources. Special fund revenues and expenditures for the board are maintained beyond FY 2021. The Governor’s proposed FY 2021 budget includes \$2,725,496 for board operations.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** BDE is mandated to protect the public by regulating the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene in Maryland. Among the enumerated duties, the board issues licenses, adopts standards of practice for dentistry, investigates complaints

based on alleged violations of regulations and statutes, and disciplines licensees. As of January 2020, approximately 22,200 licenses, certificates, and permits were held by dentists, dental hygienists, and dental radiation technologists in the State.

After the completion of a [sunset report](#) conducted by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) in 2009, Chapter 542 of 2010 extended the termination date of the board by 10 years from July, 1, 2011, to July 1, 2021.

The board is one of approximately 70 regulatory entities and activities subject to evaluation under MPEA. Entities subject to MPEA may be evaluated by DLS only as directed by specified entities or by legislation. Most such entities are subject to termination, including the board, which is scheduled to terminate July 1, 2021. Accordingly, the evaluation process is better known as sunset review.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 391 (Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee)  
- Health and Government Operations.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 3, 2020  
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Analysis by: Amberly Holcomb

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510