

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 257

(Chair, Finance Committee)(By Request - Departmental -
Health)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners - Sunset Extension

This departmental bill extends the termination date for the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners by three years to July 1, 2028, subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (MPEA). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues and expenditures for the board are maintained through FY 2028.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The practice of physical therapy in Maryland is regulated by the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. The board was created by the General Assembly in 1947 and is housed within MDH. The mission of the board is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all Marylanders through the promotion and oversight of the Physical Therapy Practice Act. The board comprises eight members: five licensed physical therapists; one licensed physical therapy assistant; and

two consumers. As of October 1, 2023, the board oversaw 9,474 active licensees, including 7,147 physical therapists and 2,327 physical therapist assistants.

The board is one of approximately 60 regulatory entities and activities subject to termination unless reauthorized periodically through statute. Under MPEA, these entities may also be subject to an evaluation by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) within DLS prior to their termination. However, OPEGA may conduct an evaluation only if directed by specified entities or by legislation. The board is scheduled to terminate July 1, 2025; OPEGA was not asked to conduct an evaluation prior to its termination. Accordingly, the board has requested reauthorizing legislation.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 727 of 2023 and SB 209 of 2022.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 15, 2024
km/jc Third Reader - February 7, 2024

Analysis by: Michael E. Sousane

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

ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES
Maryland Department of Health
Session 2024

BILL TITLE: State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners – Sunset Extension
BILL NUMBER: SB0257
PREPARED BY: _____
(Program\Unit): Health Occupations Boards & Commissions/Board of Physical
Therapy Examiners

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 proposal has no economic impact.