
HOUSE BILL 817

Date: March 3, 2020
Committee: Health and Government Operations
Bill Title: Regulations Affecting Small Businesses - Certification of Comparable Local Regulation
RE: **Letter of Information**

In order to comply with the certification requirement of this bill, the Maryland Department of Labor (Labor) would have to thoroughly research local government regulations. The State Government Article defines a "local government unit" (Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-101) to include counties, municipalities, and certain special districts. Local government regulations are not as readily accessible as state and federal regulations. Neither of the two main legal research portals (LexisNexis and Westlaw) include local government regulations.

Currently, Maryland has 23 counties, 157 municipalities and 167 special districts. Due to the large volume of research that would be required to determine whether there are comparable regulations in each of the 347 local government units that exist in Maryland, the burden of researching the regulations of so many jurisdictions without a consistent research method would be significant.

This research would be required for every regulation proposed by Labor. Thus, HB 817 will have both a fiscal as well as operational impact on Labor's many divisions. Given current staffing levels, Labor will be required to expend resources to hire additional staff dedicated solely to researching, reviewing and/or cross-referencing Maryland's local government units and their existing regulations in order to determine if those local regulations are of a comparable nature to any regulations such divisions seek to propose and/or promulgate.

Labor will be required to hire two (2) full-time Assistant Attorney Generals (Grade 20, Step 0) to act in an overall advisory and review capacity on behalf of the entire Department. These additional hires are necessary to absorb the additional work resulting from the mandates delineated in Senate Bill 720. Assigning the work to current Department staff would not be an adequate resolution, given the amount of time and effort required to perform this research. As such, Labor anticipates expenditures over each of the next five fiscal years to be as follows: \$134,294 (FY 2021); \$172,347 (FY 2022); \$176,537 (FY 2023); \$182,675 (FY 2024); and \$189,029 (FY 2025), respectively.