

Title 15
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Subtitle 14 BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

15.14.12 Fees

Authority: Agriculture Article, §2-303, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

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The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners proposes to amend Regulation .02 under **COMAR 15.14.12 Fees**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to reduce the registration fees charged to veterinarians for both initial registration and for annual renewal registration fees for license renewal.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

I. Summary of Economic Impact.

There will be a moderate impact on revenue received by the SBVME beginning with the 2017 fiscal year for the reduction of registration fees for both the initial fee and the registration license renewal. Veterinary registration fees account for approximately 75% of the SBVME's annual revenue. The SBVME is proposing to reduce the registration fee by 30% — from \$215 to \$150 annually. Fees for veterinarians who become licensed or reinstated beginning in fiscal year 2017 between January 1 and June 30 will be reduced from \$110 to \$75. The fee reductions will result in revenues being slightly less than expenditures.

Revenue (R+/R-)

II. Types of Economic Impact.

Expenditure (E+/E-)

Magnitude

A. On issuing agency:

Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

(R-)

\$178,825

B. On other State agencies:

NONE

C. On local governments:

NONE

Benefit (+)

Cost (-)

Magnitude

D. On regulated industries or trade groups:

NONE

(1) Re-registering veterinarians

(+)

\$65 annually

(2) Newly-licensed and reinstated veterinarians

(+)

\$35—\$65

E. On other industries or trade groups:

NONE

F. Direct and indirect effects on public:

NONE

III. Assumptions. (Identified by Impact Letter and Number from Section II.)

A. The SBVME is proposing to reduce the registration fee charged to veterinarians who are: renewing their annual license; registering their license for the first time; or registering their license due to reinstatement of the license. In April 2012, the SBVME increased fees due to a reduction in the SBVME's fund. Since then, the SBVME has generated a reserve from which it may begin drawing through the proposed fee reduction. This reserve is largely the result of the following: receiving more applications from prospective licensees and registrants than anticipated; unexpected shortages in staffing, resulting in less money spent on salaries and benefits; and delays in the implementation of projects requiring a full staff and the assistance of intra-agency programs. The fee changes will reduce the SBVME's revenue by approximately \$178,825, as explained more fully in D(1) and (2).

D(1). Veterinarians who renew their veterinary license annually will pay \$65 less under the proposed fee structure. The fee reduction will save approximately 2,700 veterinarians renewing their licenses \$65 annually, for a total savings of \$175,500.

D(2). In March 2015, the SBVME reduced the veterinary registration fee from \$215 to \$110 for newly-licensed or newly-reinstated veterinarians who registered between January 1—June 30. The SBVME is proposing that the fee for these veterinarians be half of the fee proposed for re-registrants and those registering during the first half of the fiscal year. Therefore, the fee for newly-licensed and reinstated veterinarians registering between July 1—December 31 would be \$150, and the fee for newly-licensed and reinstated veterinarians registering between January—June 30 would be \$75.

Approximately 60% of veterinarians who become licensed or reinstated with the SBVME register during the second half of the fiscal year. This is expected to result in an additional decrease in revenue for the SBVME of approximately \$3,325 annually.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Laura C. Downes, Executive Director, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, or call 410 841 5862, or email to laura.downes@maryland.gov, or fax to 410 841 5780. Comments will be accepted through November 16, 2015. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

Attached Document:

TITLE 15

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Subtitle 14 Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

Chapter 12 Fees

Authority: Agriculture Article, §2-303, Annotated Code of Maryland

01. Scope.
(Text unchanged).

02. Fees.
(Text unchanged)

A. Initial registration fees are established by the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners:

(1) Between July 1 and December 31 — [~~\$215~~] *\$150*;

(2) Between January 1 and June 30 — [~~\$110~~] *\$75*.

B. Annual registration renewal fee — [~~\$215~~] *\$150*;

C. – K. (Text unchanged).