

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

Senate Bill 242

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

Finance

Health and Government Operations

State Board of Social Work Examiners - Sunset Extension

This departmental bill extends the termination date for the State Board of Social Work Examiners by five years to July 1, 2030, subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (MPEA). By December 1, 2024, the board must report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on (1) the average processing time for issuing initial and renewal licenses, as specified; (2) the average length of time required to resolve a complaint; and (3) the rate of compliance with current law requirements for timely review of applications and notification of applicants by the board. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues and expenditures for the board are maintained through FY 2030. The board can complete the report using existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

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

Analysis

Current Law/Background: In general, an individual must be licensed by the State Board of Social Work Examiners to practice social work in Maryland. To apply for a license, an

applicant must submit an application to the board on the form the board requires and pay the application fee set by the board.

The board must review each application and notify the applicant whether the application is complete within 15 business days after initial receipt of an application and notify the applicant whether the applicant has been approved to take the pertinent licensure examination within 60 days from the date the board received a completed application. Each license expires every two years, after which the licensee must pay a renewal fee, submit a renewal application, submit satisfactory evidence of compliance with any continuing education requirements, and otherwise be entitled to be licensed.

The board comprises 12 members, including 1 licensed bachelor social worker, 1 licensed master social worker, 1 licensed certified social worker, 4 licensed certified social workers-clinical, 1 licensed social worker employed by the Department of Human Services, 1 licensed social worker who is primarily engaged in social work education, and 2 consumer members.

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 730 of 2023.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History:
km/jc

First Reader - January 23, 2024
Third Reader - March 25, 2024
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 25, 2024
Revised - Correction - March 25, 2024
Enrolled - April 17, 2024
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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES
Maryland Department of Health
Session 2024

BILL TITLE:	<u>State Board of Social Work Examiners – Sunset Extension</u>
BILL NUMBER:	<u>SB0242</u>
(Program\Unit):	<u>Health Occupations Boards & Commissions/Board of Social Work Examiners</u>

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.