

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 513 (Delegate Harrison)
Economic Matters

Certified Interior Designers - Continuing Education Requirements

This bill alters the State Board of Certified Interior Designer's continuing education requirements for certified interior designer license renewals. Applicants for renewal certificates must earn at least one unit in two or more courses approved by the board, in place of the current requirement that at least two continuing education units be completed in any combination of board approved courses during each two year certificate term. This reduces the number of required hours from 20 per licensing term to 10.

The bill also provides that a certificate granted to a licensee during the second year of the certificate term may be renewed for the next full term if the holder earns at least one-half of a continuing education unit, or five hours, in one or more board approved courses.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful impact on small business as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: Interior design continuing education providers would be meaningfully impacted by this bill. Based on the following assumptions, it is estimated that

approximately \$90,000 to \$93,800 would be lost to small businesses that provide certified interior design continuing education courses every two years based on the biennial license renewal requirements.

- Five schools actively providing interior design continuing education in the State qualify as small businesses.
- A unit of continuing education consists of ten hours of course work.
- The average cost of one unit of interior design continuing education costs approximately \$240 to \$250.
- 375 certified interior designers will renew their licenses in the first year of each biennial certification term.

These same continuing education institutions will also benefit from the five-hour increase in continuing education requirements for renewals that occur in the second year of the licensing term through increased enrollment. The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation reports that the number of licensees who apply or renew in the second year of the term cannot be determined at this time. Thus, the increase in revenue to continuing education providers cannot currently be determined.

The bill would also have a positive impact on the majority of the 500 certified interior designers in the State who are also assumed to be small businesses. These licensees would save from \$240 to \$250 every two years based on the reduced continuing education requirements.

The bill, however, would also add a five hour/one-half unit continuing education requirement for those who were licensed in the second year of the certificate term and seeking to renew the certificate for the next full term. This additional requirement will impose a minimal increase in cost of between \$120 and \$125 for interior designers that seek licensure in the second year of the certificate term.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 5, 1997

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