

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 784 (Delegates Love and Goldwater)
Economic Matters

Land Surveyors - Continuing Education

This bill requires licensed land surveyors to complete at least 24 professional development hours of continuing education during each two-year license term in order to qualify to renew a license. The bill requires the State Board of Professional Land Surveyors to: (1) approve the form, substance, and subject matter of the course work; (2) waive the requirements under certain circumstances; and (3) authorize certain alternative continuing education options. The bill also specifies what type of organization may offer continuing education, and requires that the courses be offered at reasonable intervals in each region of the State, if feasible.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) advises that printing expenditures could increase by \$2,000 in fiscal 1998 and by \$500 in the out-years. An additional \$1,000 for postage may be required in fiscal 1998 and \$250 annually in the out-years. The Department of Fiscal Services advises that these costs could likely be handled with existing resources.

DLLR also advises that computer programming expenditures could increase by an estimated \$7,500 to modify the computer programs to capture the continuing education requirements

for licensees proposed in this legislation. The Department of Fiscal Services (DFS) advises that if other legislation is passed requiring computer reprogramming changes, economies of scale could be realized. This would reduce computer programming costs associated with this bill and other legislation affecting the DLLR system. Further, DFS advises that the increased computer expenditure is simply an estimate and DLLR may be able to handle the changes with either less money than it estimates or existing resources.

Small Business Effect: To the extent that the continuing education courses are provided by professional associations and societies, assumed to be small businesses, the bill would create demand for courses and generate revenue for the continuing education providers. The Maryland Society of Surveyors, specifically named as a provider of continuing education in the bill, is a nonprofit organization that provides professional development continuing education courses for approximately \$10 per credit and could benefit from the increased demand created by the bill.

Land surveyors attempting to renew their licenses would be required under this bill to complete continuing education course work. The businesses through which the majority of land surveyors practice are also assumed to be small businesses. The average cost of continuing education is approximately \$10 per credit or \$240 to complete the 24 required professional development hours of continuing education required biennially by the bill. The cost of the course work would be born by the surveyors over a two-year period. It is noted that many land surveyors hold licenses in other states and are currently required to complete continuing education requirements. Many Maryland surveyors are currently receiving the required state regulatory board approval of continuing education requirements from Delaware.

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

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