

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1175 (Delegate Harkins)

Economic Matters

Master Plumbers - Continuing Education

This bill requires the State Board of Plumbers to adopt regulations that require a master plumber to complete at least eight hours of continuing education instruction in the subject matter required by the board during each two-year license term. The bill also requires the board to consider the availability in all geographic areas of the State of continuing education instruction in the required subject matter. For good cause, the board may waive the continuing education requirement to prevent undue hardship or gross unfairness.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The State Plumbing Board would incur approximately \$5,500 in order to promulgate the regulations required by the bill. This estimate includes postage, printing, and electronic licensing programming costs. Once the regulations are in place, the bill would not affect the finances of the State Plumbing Board.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal effect.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: There are currently 2,850 licensed master plumbers in the State. Most master plumbers are organized as small businesses. These businesses would bear the cost of eight hours of course work. Although the cost of an eight hour course is unknown, it is assumed to be small compared to the total operating costs of the business.

The State Plumbing Board does not have jurisdiction over Baltimore County or the areas served by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (primarily Prince George's County

and Montgomery County). As a result plumbers in those areas would not be affected.

Small businesses which offer plumbing courses would benefit from an increase in consumer demand.

Information Source: Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 1998

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