

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1364
Economic Matters

(Delegate Parrott)

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: Minimal. Regulations could be adopted using existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: There are no provisions governing continuing education requirements for master plumbers.

State Fiscal Effect: The State Plumbing Board advises that it would incur a one-time cost of approximately \$10,000 in order to adopt the regulations required by the bill. This estimate includes postage, printing, and electronic licensing programming costs.

Small Business Effect: There are currently 2,890 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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill was introduced as HB 1175 in 1998. It received an unfavorable report from the House Economic Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – March 8, 2001
ncs/jr

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