

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 367 (Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee)
(Department of Legislative Services)

Environmental Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

**State Board of Examiners in Optometry - Sunset Extension and Program
Evaluation**

This bill extends the sunset date for the State Board of Examiners in Optometry from July 1, 2002 to July 1, 2013, and requires a sunset evaluation report of the board by July 1, 2012.

This bill takes effect October 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Revenues and expenditures for the State Board of Examiners in Optometry would be maintained beyond FY 2002. The proposed FY 2002 budget assumes \$224,814 in special fund revenues for the board and includes \$224,814 in special fund expenditures. Our-year revenues and expenditures are assumed to remain relatively constant.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Board of Examiners in Optometry termination date is July 1, 2003.

Background: The State Board of Examiners in Optometry is responsible for the licensing and regulating of optometrists in the State. The authority is subject to the Maryland Program Evaluation Act, also known as the “sunset law,” which provides a system of periodic legislative review of the regulatory, licensing, and other governmental activities of various units of State government.

This bill arises out of the sunset evaluation of the State Board of Examiners in Optometry performed by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) during 2000. In its report, DLS recommended that the board be continued and its termination date be extended to July 1, 2013. In addition, DLS recommended that the board submit a follow-up report to the Legislative Policy Committee by October 1, 2001 on the status of its five-year fund balance projections, since they were inappropriately high.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 116 (The President) – Economic and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Boards and Commissions), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 5, 2001
jm/jr

Analysis by: Sandra Steele

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510