

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 82

(Chairman, Economic Matters Committee)
(Departmental – Labor, Licensing, and Regulation)

Economic Matters

State Board for Professional Engineers

This departmental bill alters several provisions of law relating to the State Board for Professional Engineers.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in State revenues could result from a slightly higher number of examinations being administered. State expenditures would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) has determined that this bill will have minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Bill Summary: In addition to making several stylistic changes, this bill:

- adds special knowledge of chemical sciences to the definition of “practice engineering;”
- allows the board to disclose information regarding complaints against an individual if authorized to do so by *law or regulation*;
- clarifies that an applicant must pass the eight-hour written examination in the fundamentals of engineering and meet the experience requirement prior to taking the eight-hour written examination in the principles and practice of engineering;

- allows an applicant who has failed two licensing reexaminations to retake the examination after submitting documentation showing updated work experience without waiting for a specified time period;
- eliminates the opportunity to meet with a board member following three failures; and
- repeals a provision barring board members from grading examinations.

Current Law: The definition of “practice engineering” includes special knowledge of mathematical, physical, and engineering sciences. Although special knowledge of chemical sciences is not explicitly included, the board has authority to determine the scope, subjects, and method of examination.

If any person seeks information about a licensee, upon formal request and payment of a \$10 fee, the board may certify the following: (1) the licensing status of the individual who is the subject of the request; (2) information about the individual’s examination results and other qualifications; (3) the dates of issuance and renewal of the individual’s license; (4) information about any disciplinary action taken against the individual; and (5) if authorized to do so by the *individual*, information about any complaints against that individual.

If an applicant fails a licensing examination three times, the applicant may request a conference with a board member, yet may not retake the examination for at least two years from the date of the third failure. Board members are prevented from grading any examinations given by or for the board.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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