

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 123 (Delegate Minnick, *et al.*)  
Environmental Matters

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Health Occupations - Electrologists - Qualifications for Licensure

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This bill expands the educational options for licensure to include an apprenticeship program approved by the State Board of Electrologists.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Minimal increase in special fund revenue due to additional applicants who qualify for licensure through the apprenticeship option.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal. It is possible that some electrologists will offer apprenticeship programs to applicants. Electrologists may charge fees to applicants for providing apprenticeship services. However, the number of electrologists that would provide these services is expected to be small.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** State law requires that an applicant for an electrology license be of good moral character and at least 18 years old. The applicant must be a high school graduate or have attained an equivalent degree and completed vocational education requirements, including completion of an electrology education program, taught by a licensed instructor. The education program must include at least 188 hours of electrology theory for a license granted on or after July 1, 1992, and at least 200 hours for a license granted on or after July 1, 1998. The applicant must have at least 182 hours of instruction in clinical practice for a license granted on or after July 1, 1992, and at least 400 hours for a license granted on or after July 1, 1998. An applicant may meet the license requirements

by completing an electrology program from any other state that the State Board of Electrology deems equivalent to the Maryland education requirements. An applicant who meets the educational qualifications is also required to pass a board examination unless exempted by statute.

**Background:** The State Board of Electrologists has a difficult fiscal situation. The board recently underwent a preliminary sunset review evaluation in which the funding difficulties were highlighted. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) noted while board projections for 2002 indicate that revenues will exceed expenses, that is only because the board has been operating without an administrator since January 2001. If the board had the services of a part-time administrator, expenses would have exceeded revenues and the carryover balance would have been depleted. Because the board is special funded, general funds are not available to eliminate any deficit.

According to the State Board of Electrologists, one reason why the board's fiscal situation is unsatisfactory is that there are few new licensees. Currently, there are no schools of electrolysis in Maryland and therefore, no means of training new electrologists. In the past three years, the number of licensed electrologists decreased from 198 to 140. Over the past two years, only three people took the licensing examination. Apprenticeship is regarded as a viable education method in other states and is recognized by the American Electrology Association. According to the State Electrology Board, expanding electrology education opportunities to include apprenticeship could increase the number of licensing applicants and help increase the board's revenues.

**State Fiscal Effect:** To date, four people have expressed interest in participating in an apprenticeship program and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) is working with schools and electrologists to offer the program. DHMH advises that applicants would be charged a \$50 application fee, but no revenues would accrue to the board for providing apprenticeships. Accordingly, DLS believes that any revenue increase is expected to be minimal, given the relatively small number of licensees statewide (140 as of January 2002) and the absence of any other electrology education programs in Maryland.

**Small Business Effect:** The agency notes that four people are interested in becoming electrology apprentices. DLS believes that a minimal impact on small businesses is possible as some electrologists may begin to offer apprenticeship programs as a result of this legislation. The electrologists who offer apprenticeship services could receive additional revenues as a result, but the overall impact is expected to be minimal.

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

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