

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 886
Economic Matters

(Delegate Conway, *et al.*)

Elevator Safety - Composition and Duties of Review Board - Licensing of Elevator Mechanics

This bill adds two members to the Elevator Safety Review Board and prohibits the chairman of the board from representing organized labor or being affiliated with a trade union. The bill also repeals the board's authority to adopt bylaws and regulations and alters requirements for elevator apprentices and licensed elevator mechanics.

The bill's effective date is June 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's changes could be handled within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill adds two members to the board and requires that one board member must represent independent merit based labor, and one must represent merit based labor involved in the installation, maintenance, and repair of elevators.

The chairman of the board may not be a representative of organized labor or have affiliation with a trade union, including any signatory agreement that may create bias.

The board's authority to adopt any bylaw for the conduct of the board's proceedings, or any regulation to carry out provisions of law relating to elevator safety, is repealed.

All elevator apprentices must be enrolled in an apprenticeship program approved by the State.

An applicant for an elevator mechanic license must have an acceptable combination of documented experience and education credits and satisfactorily complete a written examination administered by the board. An applicant must also have a certificate of completion of the mechanic examination from a nationally recognized training program for the elevator industry, such as the National Association of Elevator Contractors, or its equivalent, or have a certificate of completion from a State-approved apprenticeship program. An applicant may be granted a license without examination if, in addition to possessing sufficient ability and skill and a minimum of three years of experience that is acceptable to the board, is certified as an elevator technician through an educational program approved by the Apprenticeship and Training Council, and applies for a license on or before September 30, 2002. The board may extend the application deadline if it does not have the appropriate applications and paperwork available by July 1, 2002.

For applicants who must take an examination, the board must provide a study guide at least 180 days prior to examination.

Current Law: The board consists of nine members, including the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, who is ex-officio, and two consumer members. Of the remaining six members, one shall represent each of the following:

- a major elevator manufacturer;
- an elevator servicing company;
- the architectural design profession;
- a municipal corporation in the State;
- a building owner or manager; and
- labor that is involved in the installation, maintenance, and repair of elevators.

The chairman of the board is appointed by the Governor from among any of the board members.

A license is not required for an elevator apprentice, nor is there any requirement for an apprentice to enroll in an apprentice program.

An applicant for an elevator mechanic license who applies for a license on or before September 30, 2002, and possesses sufficient ability and skill and has at least three years of experience that is acceptable to the board, is entitled to a license without taking an examination or being certified by an apprenticeship and training program.

The board must determine the fee, content, scope, and passing score for examinations, but there is no requirement for the board to provide a study guide for the examination.

Background: In 2001, Chapter 703 established the Elevator Safety Review Board and Chapter 365 updated the laws relating to elevator safety.

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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