

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 487

(Chairman, Economic Matters Committee)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Board of Master Electricians - Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

This bill extends the termination date of the State Board of Master Electricians from July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2013, and requires a sunset evaluation of the board by July 1, 2012. The board must also report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and House Economic Matters Committee by October 1, 2002 on the implementation of recommendations of the Department of Legislative Services made in the October 2001 sunset evaluation report.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: State finances for the State Board of Master Electricians would continue beyond FY 2003. The FY 2003 general fund budget allowance for the board is \$53,300, and the board is projected to generate \$91,100 in general fund revenues. Out-year revenues and expenditures are expected to remain relatively constant. A one-time expenditure of \$15,000 is expected in FY 2003 to upgrade electronic licensing and database programs.

Local Effect: The bill's reporting requirements are minimal and expected to be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: In addition to extending the termination date of the board, the bill establishes a number of reporting requirements. The bill requires that:

- a county or municipal corporation that requires a local license must report a disciplinary action against a licensee to the State board within 30 days of commencing the action;
- upon receipt of notice of a disciplinary action against a licensee, the State board must provide notice of the disciplinary action to each local licensing jurisdiction; and
- by December 1 of each year, each local licensing jurisdiction must submit to the State board the number of complaints against master electricians it licenses.

Current Law: The State Board of Master Electricians is located in the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing within the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR). In addition to licensing master electricians, the board has the power to hold hearings, administer oaths, issue subpoenas, and take testimony. The board may deny a State license to an applicant, reprimand a licensee, or suspend or revoke a State license. The board also notifies each local board or building official of a suspended, revoked, or reinstated license.

Background: The State Board of Master Electricians is responsible for the licensing and regulation of master electricians throughout 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 Master Electricians performed by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) during 2001. In its report, DLS recommended that the board be continued and its termination date extended to July 1, 2013. It also made recommendations to increase the level of coordination between the State board and local licensing jurisdictions, to evaluate the fiscal viability of the board, and to report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and House Economic Matters Committee by October 1, 2002 on its progress regarding these recommendations.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund revenues for the board will be maintained beyond fiscal 2003. The proposed 2003 budget assumes the board will collect \$91,100 in fees.

General fund expenditures will be maintained beyond fiscal 2003. While the 2003 budget allowance of \$53,300 will fall slightly short of covering average direct costs of \$63,000, the allocation of indirect costs will widen the program's deficit. Additionally, because of new reporting requirements, DLLR estimates a one-time \$15,000 charge in fiscal 2003 to update electronic licensing and database programs. If budgeted allowances remain significantly less than combined direct and indirect costs, the board is not projected to become self-supporting.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 456 (Senator Pinsky)(Chairman, Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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