

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1309 (Delegate Donoghue)
 Environmental Matters

Dentistry - Waiver of Licensure Education Requirement - Pediatric Specialist

This bill authorizes the State Board of Dental Examiners to waive education requirements for a general license for applicants who do not hold dental education degrees from an institution recognized by the board under certain conditions. The applicant must complete a two-year dentistry residency program at a board-recognized institution and successfully complete a pediatric dental fellowship at the University of Maryland Dental School. The person must also contract to provide pediatric dental services for at least two years in a public health dental clinic operated by the State, a Maryland county, or Maryland municipality.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues could increase by \$1,500 to account for up to three eligible applicants under the waiver program who would pay limited license and general license fees. Out-years account for the impact of three new applicants annually and biennial license renewals. The board could implement the bill with existing resources.

(in dollars)	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
SF Revenue	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$3,000
Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$3,000

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board may waive education requirements for general license applicants of good moral character who are professionally competent and hold a dental degree or its equivalent from an institution other than one located in the United States or Canada. The applicant must successfully complete at least a two-year pediatric dentistry residency program at a dental school or hospital authorized by any state and which the board recognizes. The applicant must either be a pediatric dental fellow or successfully completed a pediatric dental fellowship at the University of Maryland Dental School. The applicant must become contractually obligated to provide pediatric dental services for at least two years in a public dental clinic operated by the State, or a Maryland county or municipality, and meet any other requirements established by the board.

The health officer of the public health program and the dean of the University Dental School must request the waiver on behalf of the applicant and state that circumstances exist to justify the waiver. The general license may be granted pursuant to this waiver only after the applicant has successfully passed an examination given by the board. The general license must be surrendered immediately if the licensee fails, for any reason, to satisfy the contractual obligation to provide pediatric dental care in a public health dental clinic.

Current Law: To qualify for a license to practice dentistry, an applicant must hold a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree, a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree, or the equivalent from a college or university that is authorized by any state or Canadian province. The program must be recognized by the board for adequate preprofessional collegiate training and for maintaining an acceptable course of dental instruction.

The board may waive the education requirement for an applicant for a limited license who does not hold a dental degree from a board-recognized state or provincial college or university that is authorized to offer a dental education program. The board is authorized to grant a waiver only if the applicant passes a series of preliminary tests given by the board to determine whether the applicant is qualified to take the examination for a general license. The limited license applicant must complete at least two years of formal general clinical training in a board-recognized state or provincial college or university that offers a dental education program and must meet any other board requirements.

Background: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) advises that graduates from schools outside the United States or Canada cannot receive a general license to practice dentistry. For those foreign graduates interested in pediatric dentistry and willing to provide service to indigent populations, this bill provides an opportunity to receive a general dentistry license. After successful completion of a pediatric residency

program, the graduates must complete the pediatric fellowship program at the University of Maryland, contract to provide at least two years of dental service to an eligible public health program, and meet other requirements as established under this bill and by the board.

State Fiscal Effect: DHMH advises that since the bill applies only to pediatric residents and fellows, a maximum of three students annually would be eligible for a waiver under this bill. Pursuant to current board practice, those eligible would be required to pay the \$150 fee for a limited license and a \$50 application fee. After completion of the fellowship, receiving the required endorsements from the University of Maryland and the public health program, and taking the examination, the applicants would be required to pay \$250 for a general license and a \$50 application fee. The maximum special fund income in fiscal 2003 would be \$1,500. Out-year revenues assume three new applicants per year who would pay the limited license and general license fees and the impact of biennial renewals for general licensees in fiscal 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of Administrative Hearings, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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