

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
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FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 414

(Senator Pinsky)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Dentists and Dental Hygienists - Licensure - Examination Requirements

This bill amends the State Board of Dental Examiners licensure requirements for dentists and dental hygienists licensed in other states.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal increase in special fund revenues if the bill encourages more dentists and dental hygienists licensed in other states to become licensed in Maryland. No effect on special fund expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill allows a dental licensee applicant who is licensed in another state and has passed a regional dental board examination to receive a license in Maryland if the applicant passes a comprehensive examination on applied clinical diagnosis and treatment planning and passes a law exam. A dentist licensed in another state who has not passed a regional dental board exam must be granted a license in Maryland if: (1) for the preceding five years the dentist was practicing dentistry; and (2) the applicant passes a comprehensive exam on applied clinical diagnosis and treatment planning and a law exam given by or designated by the board.

A dental hygienist licensed in another state who has passed a regional dental board exam must be granted a Maryland dental hygienist license if the applicant passes an exam given by the board. A dental hygienist licensed in another state who has not passed a regional dental board exam must be granted a Maryland dental hygienist license if for the last three years the applicant was practicing dental hygiene and the applicant passes an exam given by or designated by the board.

The regional dental boards are the Central Regional Dental Testing Service; the North East Regional Board of Dental Examiners, Inc. (NERB); the Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc.; and the Western Regional Examining Board, Inc.

Passing a regional board means an applicant earns a 75% score in each discipline, clinical skill, procedure, or knowledge area tested on the NERB exam using the internal weighting and scoring methods NERB uses to score the dentist or dental hygienist exams.

An out-of-state licensed dentist or dental hygienist who is applying for a Maryland license must have passed a regional board exam or any other similar exam before receiving the out-of-state license.

Current Law: A dentist licensed in another state who, for the last five years, has practiced dentistry must be granted a license in Maryland after passing an exam given by the board. A dental hygienist licensed in another state who, for the last three years, has practiced dental hygiene must be granted a Maryland license after passing an exam given by the board.

Background: There are 5,265 active licensed dentists and 2,589 active licensed dental hygienists in Maryland. Before becoming licensed, dentists and dental hygienists must first pass clinical exams given by NERB.

State Fiscal Effect: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene special fund revenues could increase minimally in fiscal 2004 and following fiscal years if this bill encourages dentists and dental hygienists licensed in other states to apply for Maryland licenses. State Board of Dental Examiners' application fees for licensure by waiver of practical clinical exam are \$1,125 for dentists and \$565 for dental hygienists. Applicants would also be required to pay the board a \$50 fee to take a jurisprudence exam. Special fund expenditures would not increase.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 334 (Delegate Donoghue) – Health and Government Operations.

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

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