

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 237 (Delegates Donoghue and Oaks)
 Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Dentistry - Licensure Requirements - Pediatric Specialist

This bill authorizes the State Board of Dental Examiners to waive education requirements for a limited license to practice dentistry for an applicant who does not hold a dental education degree from an institution recognized by the board under specified conditions. The board's authority to grant a waiver of educational requirements terminates September 30, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues could increase by \$2,100 in FY 2004 to account for seven pediatric dentistry applicants for limited licenses who would pay the limited license and credential processing fees. Out-year revenues are assumed to be stable except in FY 2007 when it is assumed that the seven individuals will graduate, become general licensed dentists in the State, and pay the general license and exam fees to the board. Special fund expenditures would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
SF Revenue	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$5,600	\$2,100
Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$5,600	\$2,100

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The applicant must have completed at least a two-year pediatric dentistry residency program at a board-recognized institution, either be a pediatric dental fellow or have successfully completed a pediatric dental fellowship at the University of Maryland Dental School, and hold a dental degree or its equivalent from an institution outside the United States or Canada. 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, or in a federal or Maryland qualified health center only to Medicaid, uninsured, or indigent patients or patients who otherwise qualify for dental care in a public health dental clinic. The applicant is limited to practicing in the public health dental clinic or the federally or Maryland qualified health center for which the applicant agreed to provide services.

The limited license expires and must be surrendered to the board if the licensee's contract with the public health dental clinic or federal or Maryland qualified health center expires, if the licensee does not fulfill his or her contractual obligations, or if the licensee does not limit his or her practice to where he or she is under contract.

The board may issue a general license to a limited license holder if the licensee: (1) successfully completes an at least two-year contract to provide pediatric dental care in a public health clinic or federal or Maryland qualified health center; (2) submits an application; (3) passes the written and clinical exams of the North East Regional Board; (4) passes the Maryland dental jurisprudence exam; (5) passes the national board examinations; (6) demonstrates oral English competency by scoring 220 or better for overall comprehension and 2.0 or better for pronunciation, grammar, and fluency on the spoken English test administered by Educational Testing Service; and (7) is of good moral character.

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 general 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.

State Fiscal Effect: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) reports that the University of Maryland Dental School pediatric fellowship program expects to have seven fellows participating in fiscal 2004 and each year thereafter.

DHMH advises that each of the seven applicants would pay an annual \$225 limited license fee and a \$75 credential processing fee. As a result, special fund revenues to the board would increase by \$2,100 in fiscal 2004. Out-year special fund revenues are assumed to be stable, except for fiscal 2007 when it is assumed the seven individuals will graduate and become licensed dentists in Maryland. At that point, each individual would pay a \$450 general license application fee and a \$50 exam fee to the board. Special fund expenditures would not be affected.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill, HB 1309, was introduced in the 2002 session and received an unfavorable report in the Environmental Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 3, 2003
s/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 17, 2003

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