

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 388
Economic Matters

(Delegate Myers, *et al.*)

Licensed Professional Engineers – Preparation of Construction Drawings –
Authority by Jurisdiction

This bill allows any county or municipality in Maryland to authorize a licensed professional engineer to prepare, sign, seal, and date construction drawings for public structures classified as storage or utility of less than 12,000 square feet in accordance with the Maryland building performance standards.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: This bill would not materially impact local government operations.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful effect on Maryland architects to the extent they would no longer be retained to redraft, sign, seal, and date construction drawings for public structures in Maryland that have been signed, sealed, and dated by a licensed professional engineer. Small businesses in Maryland wishing to expand their operations would incur fewer expenditures in capital improvement projects.

Analysis

Current Law: With specified exceptions, construction drawings must be signed, sealed, and dated by a licensed architect to be valid for use in all Maryland jurisdictions.

Background: Builders and contractors purchase prefabricated public structures from out-of-state firms that use computer programs to design public structures to meet

Maryland's building codes. An engineer from out-of-state signs, seals, and dates the drawings associated with these prefabricated structures. Currently, builders and contractors are required to have a licensed architect in Maryland redraft, sign, seal, and date those drawings; architects typically charge a fee for this service.

Additional Comments: The bill does not specify if the professional engineer must be licensed in Maryland by reference to Title 14 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article; accordingly, Legislative Services assumes the bill intends to authorize any jurisdiction to authorize any licensed professional engineer to prepare, sign, seal, and date construction drawings for public structures in the county classified as storage or utility of less than 12,000 square feet.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): City of Havre de Grace; Town of Indian Head; Wicomico County; Allegany County; Montgomery County; Prince George's County; Talbot County; Town of Rising Sun; City of Frederick; Department of Labor; Licensing, and Regulation; Baltimore City; Department of Legislative Services

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