

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 697

(Delegate Hubbard, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**State Board of Dental Examiners - Committee on Dental Hygiene -
Recommendations**

This bill requires the State Board of Dental Examiners to refer all matters within its jurisdiction related to the regulation of dental hygiene to its Committee on Dental Hygiene for the committee's evaluation, review, or recommendation. The board must implement any committee recommendation regarding the practice or regulation of dental hygiene unless the board finds the recommendation has an undue financial impact on the board, is unsupported by evidence in the committee record, or 10 board members vote to overturn the recommendation.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change would not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Committee on Dental Hygiene is composed of three dental hygienists, one dentist, and one consumer. The board must refer all matters within the board's jurisdiction relating to or affecting the practice of dental hygiene for the committee's evaluation, review, and recommendation.

Background: A Department of Legislative Services (DLS) sunset review of the board found that some dental hygienist board members, as well as members of the hygienist profession, believe that dental hygiene matters do not get as much attention from the board as they should. As a result, some hygienists have expressed the desire for a separate regulatory board. Since dental hygiene issues make up a relatively small portion of the board's work and the board members, regardless of profession, work well together to address dental hygiene issues, the DLS review advised that the board can effectively and efficiently regulate the dental hygiene profession. In fiscal 2005, the board projects that more than 2,500 dental hygienists will hold a license.

Additional Comments: SB 248/HB 420 of 2005 extend the board's termination date from July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2011 and make other changes.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; *Sunset Review: Evaluation of the State Board of Dental Examiners*, October 2004, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2005
mll/ljm Revised - House Third Reader - March 26, 2005

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