

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1570 (Delegate Harrison, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

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State Board of Morticians - Apprentices - Licensing Requirements

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This bill doubles to 2,000 the number of working hours a mortician's licensed apprentice must complete before the apprentice can apply for a mortician license from the State Board of Morticians. The bill increases from two to three times the number of times an apprentice license may be renewed. It doubles to four years the maximum number of years an individual may work as an apprentice, without needing a one-year board extension. The bill repeals the educational requirements an individual must have before seeking an apprentice license.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Any change in State activities would not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal to the extent that it becomes easier for small business morticians to recruit apprentices and requires apprentices to work longer as an apprentice before being able to apply for a mortician license.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The State Board of Morticians has various requirements for individuals applying for licensure to practice mortuary science, including: • be of good moral character; • complete not less than one year and not more than two years of a licensed apprenticeship, unless the board allows extensions for additional one-year terms; and • pass the national and State exams. An apprentice license may only be renewed twice.

An individual must be licensed by the board before beginning an apprenticeship in Maryland. Before seeking the apprentice license, the individual must complete two-thirds of the academic credits for a mortuary science program at an accredited or board-approved school, with a 2.0 or higher grade point average verified with a certified copy of the college transcript.

The apprentice's practical experience must include participation in at least 20 funerals, assistance in embalming at least 20 dead human bodies, and completion of 1,000 working hours in a licensed funeral establishment under a licensed mortician's direct supervision.

A license issued by the board may not be renewed for a term longer than two years; however, an apprentice license may only be renewed for one-year terms.

**Background:** There are approximately 40 apprentices licensed by the Board of Morticians. Apprentice license and renewal fees are each \$225. Mortician license and renewal fees are \$500. The mortician examination fee is \$265.

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### **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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 17, 2006  
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