

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 934 (Delegate Hubbard)
Health and Government Operations

**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, and recommendation. The board must implement a committee recommendation unless the board finds that the recommendation has undue financial impact on the board, is unsupported by the evidence in the committee record, or 10 board members vote to overturn the recommendation. The bill also expands the committee's membership by two members, one dental hygienist and one dentist.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Board of Dental Examiners has 16 members: 9 licensed dentists, 4 licensed dental hygienists, and 3 consumers. The board may establish committees from among its members to help the board discharge its statutory duties and responsibilities by evaluating, reviewing, and making recommendations to the board on matters the board refers to the committees. One of those committees is the Committee on Dental Hygiene to which the board must refer all matters within its jurisdiction relating to

or affecting the practice of dental hygiene. The committee consists of five members: three dental hygienists, one dentist, and one consumer.

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.

There are 2,712 active licensed dental hygienists in Maryland.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill, HB 697 of 2005, was amended and passed by the House but received an unfavorable report in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

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 19, 2007
nas/ljm

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