

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1437

(Delegate Pendergrass, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Veterinarians - Licenses - Waiver of Requirements

This bill requires the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (SBVME) to waive a licensure requirement for out-of-state applicants for a Maryland veterinary license, under specified circumstances.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not affect State finances as the bill does not waive licensure and registration fees.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: SBVME must waive the requirement that an applicant who has an active license from another state have five years of continuous clinical practice in order to receive a Maryland license, if the applicant has been relocated outside the United States due to the government service of either the applicant or applicant's spouse. For the waiver to apply, the applicant must provide proof of government service and residency outside the United States and have an active veterinary license from another state.

Current Law: The Code of Maryland Regulations provides for the licensing and certification of out-of-state veterinarians. SBVME may license and certify an applying veterinarian who:

- is either licensed in another state or is licensed in a foreign jurisdiction and is the graduate of a school accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association;
- has either engaged in the practice of clinical practice of veterinary medicine for the preceding five years or taught clinical veterinary medicine for the preceding five years at an institution accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association;
- has paid all appropriate fees; and
- has passed the board examination, consisting of a notarized statement submitted to SBVME, attesting to the fact that the applicant has read and comprehends the laws and regulations governing the practice of veterinary medicine in Maryland.

Applicants for a veterinarian license must pay an initial license fee of \$140 and then a \$140 annual registration fee each year after.

Background: The Maryland General Assembly created SBVME in 1894 to improve the practice of veterinary medicine in Maryland. The board currently regulates over 2,300 veterinarians and approximately 500 veterinary facilities. It is responsible for examining, licensing, and registering veterinarians; issuing permits for sodium pentobarbital; annually inspecting and licensing Maryland veterinary hospitals; imposing educational, training, and supervisory requirements on veterinarians; prescribing reasonable standards for the practice of veterinary medicine; and taking disciplinary action against licensees who violate the laws and regulations governing the practice of veterinary medicine in the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 1028 (Senator Robey) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 22, 2007
ncs/ljm

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