

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 622

(Senator Brinkley, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Business Regulation - Stationary Engineers - Boilers

This bill establishes that a licensed stationary engineer is not required to oversee the operation of a “heating boiler.” The provisions of the bill do not supersede the authority of the Board of Boiler Rules to implement boiler and pressure vessel safety standards.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This language seeks to clarify the requirements for boiler oversight and is not expected to materially affect the State Board of Stationary Engineers’ finances or operations.

Local Effect: Potential minimal.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 613 of 2005 requires an individual to be licensed by the State Board of Stationary Engineers before providing stationary engineer services in the State. Licenses are issued in five grades, generally distinguished by the horsepower of the boiler the licensee is authorized to oversee. A license is required of any individual that oversees a boiler that operates at a pressure of more than 15 pounds per square inch and a minimum of 30 horsepower.

Background: The International Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code establishes rules of safety governing the design, fabrication, and inspection of boilers and pressure vessels. The code distinguishes between heating boilers and power boilers based on their

operating pressure, measured in pounds per square inch gauge. Heating boilers operate at a pressure of 15 PSI or less; power boilers operate at a pressure of more than 15 PSI.

Current law requires an individual licensed by the board to oversee the operations of a boiler that operates at a pressure of more than 15 PSI, which excludes many heating boilers. The bill specifies that a licensed stationary engineer is not required to oversee any heating boiler, including those hot water boilers that operate at a pressure of up to 160 PSI or temperatures not exceeding 250 degrees Fahrenheit.

State Fiscal Effect: The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation advises that licensing requirements were not intended to apply to heating boilers. These boilers, used in many public school buildings, operate at low pressure and do not generate steam. The department does not anticipate that the changes in the bill will affect the finances or operations of the Board of Stationary Engineers, as regulations for the licensing of stationary engineers have not yet been finalized.

Local Fiscal Effect: To the extent that local governments and school systems had begun to comply with oversight requirements, local expenditures may be reduced. For most local governments, this bill would confirm that heating boilers could continue to operate without specific oversight from a licensed stationary engineer.

Small Business Effect: To the extent that small businesses had begun to comply with oversight requirements for heating boilers in their buildings, expenditures may be reduced. For most small businesses, this bill would confirm that heating boilers could continue to operate without specific oversight from a licensed stationary engineer.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 808 (Delegate Weldon, *et al.*) – Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of General Services; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2008
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Analysis by: Suzanne O. Potts

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510