

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 969

(Senator Della)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

**State Board of Stationary Engineers - Licensing Exemption - Resource Recovery
Facility Operators**

This bill establishes that an individual who provides stationary engineer services at a resource recovery facility does not require a license from the State Board of Stationary Engineers if otherwise certified by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not materially affect the State Board of Stationary Engineers' finances or operations.

Local Effect: Potential minimal for jurisdictions in which resource recovery facilities are located.

Small Business Effect: None.

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: Resource recovery facilities process solid waste to produce steam, electricity, metals, or refuse-derived fuel. These facilities rely on waste heat, rather than fossil fuels, to generate energy that is then transmitted off premises. Such facilities exist in Baltimore City, Harford County, and Montgomery County; additional sites are being considered in Carroll, Frederick, and Harford counties.

A certified incinerator operator must be present at all times when an incinerator is in operation. MDE currently requires an incinerator operator to complete a department-approved training course and pass a written examination as a condition of certification. Credentialed operators must complete a review course to qualify for annual certificate renewal.

State Fiscal Effect: The bill is not expected to 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 have begun to comply with oversight requirements, local expenditures may be reduced. For most local governments, this bill would confirm that resource recovery facilities could continue to operate without the services of a licensed stationary engineer.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1561 (Delegate Krysiak) – Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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mll/ljm

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