

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1532

(Chair, Economic Matters Committee)(By Request -
Departmental - State Police)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Fire Marshal - Fire Sprinkler Contractor - Licensing

This departmental bill requires any person, business, or contractor who provides services as a fire sprinkler contractor in the State to be licensed by the State Fire Marshal. Under current law, a subcontractor of a licensee can perform such work.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Enforcement will be handled with the existing budgeted resources of the State Fire Marshal. No significant increase or decrease in the number of licensed fire sprinkler contractors is expected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of State Police has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: A person may not provide services as a fire sprinkler contractor in the State unless the person is licensed by the State Fire Marshal or is a contractor of a licensed person. This does not prohibit some inspections, tests, repairs, maintenance, installation, plan review, or other related actions by public or private entities, as specified.

Under COMAR 29.06.05.04, a fire sprinkler contractor who inspects, tests, performs maintenance on, installs, repairs, modifies, or lays out a fire sprinkler system in a residential or commercial building in the State must possess a valid license. Each fire sprinkler contractor who performs work in Maryland must possess a valid license for one of eight classes of work. An initial two-year fire sprinkler license fee is \$300 and the two-year renewal fee is \$200.

Background: There are no known unlicensed fire sprinkler subcontractors currently operating in Maryland. Prior to this year, two were identified by the State Fire Marshal. One became licensed and the other no longer operates in the State.

The Department of State Police advises that this bill will help eliminate any future unlicensed subcontractors in Maryland. Currently, there are 176 fire sprinkler contractors licensed by the State Fire Marshal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 23, 2009
ncs/hlb

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Fire Marshal – Fire Sprinkler Contractor - Licensing

BILL NUMBER: HB 1532

PREPARED BY: Maryland State Police

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND
SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND
SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.