

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 533
Economic Matters

(Delegate Norman, *et al.*)

Business Occupations and Professions - State Board of Plumbing - Membership

This bill alters the membership requirements of the State Board of Plumbing by requiring that – of the board’s nine members – one member must be from Carroll or Howard counties and one member must be from Cecil or Harford counties.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is procedural in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The State Board of Plumbing consists of seven members from the plumbing industry and two consumer members. Board members representing the industry must each reside in specific geographic areas of the State. Currently, two industry members must be from either Carroll, Cecil, Harford, or Howard counties; thus, the bill requires greater statutory specification of the geographic requirements.

The State Board of Plumbing is housed within the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation’s (DLLR) Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing. Maryland statute sets out three purposes for the board: (1) to protect the integrity of the potable water supply; (2) to provide for the efficient and safe discharge of storm drainage and

sanitary drainage; and (3) to ensure that qualified individuals carry out the board's charge.

Over the last 20 years, each of the affected counties has grown significantly, as depicted in **Exhibit 1**. Over the same two decades, by comparison, the State's population has increased by 21%, from about 4.8 million in 1990 to about 5.8 million in 2010. Under current law, the two members may both reside in the same county, which may result in a large number of Marylanders without a board member from their county or a neighboring county. DLLR advises that this is currently the case, as both members representing the four counties reside in Howard County.

Exhibit 1
Population Changes in Counties Affected by HB 533

	<u>1990</u> <u>Census</u>	<u>2000</u> <u>Census</u>	<u>2008</u> <u>Estimated</u>	<u>2010</u> <u>Projected</u>	<u>% Increase</u> <u>Since 1990</u>
Carroll	123,372	150,897	169,353	175,900	43%
Howard	187,328	247,842	274,995	281,950	51%
Total	310,700	398,739	444,348	457,850	47%
Cecil	71,347	85,951	99,926	103,850	46%
Harford	182,132	218,590	240,351	248,450	36%
Total	253,479	304,541	340,277	352,300	39%

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Comments: Given that the affected board member positions are currently filled, Legislative Services anticipates that, if the bill is enacted, the altered membership requirements take effect after the next scheduled term expiration of one of the Howard County members.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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mam/mcr

Analysis by: Michael T. Vorgetts

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