

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 43 (Senator Haines)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Public Safety - Board of Boiler Rules - Membership

This bill alters the composition of the State Board of Boiler Rules by replacing the existing representative of owners and users of heating boilers with a representative of owners of agricultural, model, or historical steam engine equipment.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Altering the composition of the board does not affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The State Board of Boiler Rules was created in 1920 under the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Act. The board is an advisory board within the Division of Labor and Industry in the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR).

The board is charged with formulating regulations for the safe construction, use, installation, maintenance, repair, and inspection of boilers and pressure vessels in the State. Maryland has adopted the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code and the National Board of Boiler Rules as its safety standards, and statute requires that the board's recommended rules and regulations conform as nearly as possible to the ASME Code and/or to the National Board rules. All board recommendations are subject

to review and approval by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry and the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation.

The board consists of nine members: eight are related to the boiler and pressure vessel industry and one is a consumer who does not have a financial or vocational tie to the boiler industry. Statute requires that one member represent each of the following industry areas on the board:

- power boiler owners and users;
- heating boiler owners and users;
- pressure vessel owners and users;
- boiler and pressure vessel manufacturers or assemblers; and
- boiler and pressure vessel insurers.

The remaining three industry members must include:

- a mechanical engineer on the faculty of a recognized college or university;
- a stationary engineer; and
- professional engineer with boiler and/or pressure vessel experience.

DLLR advises that, historically, the board member position for a representative of heating boilers has been difficult to fill and maintain on a volunteer basis; the position is currently vacant.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 13, 2010
a/mcr

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