

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 84

(Chair, Economic Matters Committee)(By Request -
Departmental - Labor, Licensing and Regulation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**State Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration
Contractors - Membership**

This departmental bill increases the membership of the State Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVACR) Contractors by two members. The additional members must be licensed HVACR contractors and Maryland residents. Under the bill, only five of the seven professional board members must be appointed to represent particular geographic regions of the State.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for additional board members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: The board is housed within DLLR's Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing and comprises three licensed master HVACR contractors, a master electrician, a master plumber, and two consumers.

No two members may be residents of the same city, county, or other political subdivision. The five professional members must be active contractors and have provided services as contractors within their respective fields for at least five consecutive years, and each must be from a separate geographic region within the State, as specified in statute. The two consumer members may not hold an HVACR license or otherwise be subject to regulation by the board and may not have received compensation from a person regulated by the board within one year prior to appointment.

Members are appointed to three-year staggered terms. Members receive no salary but are reimbursed for travel expenses to and from the board's monthly meetings.

Background: According to DLLR, increasing the number of board members gives the board greater capacity to conduct its business, particularly in responding to consumer complaints and processing license applications. DLLR advises that the increasingly technical inquiries posed to the board, the number of applications for licensure, and consumer complaints that the board must review at each meeting require the input of at least two additional HVACR contractors. DLLR further advises that two nine-member boards with similar purviews and responsibilities, the State Board of Plumbing and the State Board of Master Electricians, have fewer licensees and consumer complaints.

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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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors – Membership

BILL NUMBER: HB 84

PREPARED BY: Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

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.