

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 294

(Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Labor,
Licensing and Regulation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

State Board of Pilots - Limited Licenses to Provide Pilotage

This departmental bill changes references to the categories of limited licenses issued by the State Board of Pilots to make them consistent with other references to the license categories in State law.

The categories of limited licenses issued by the board are based on vessel drafts; limited license categories of 32 feet, 36 feet, and 40 feet replace the current categories of 28 feet, 34 feet, and 37 feet, respectively, to reflect changes due to legislation passed in the 2010 session of the General Assembly.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 125 of 2010 altered the categories of limited licenses issued by the State Board of Pilots. The board issues an unrestricted license in addition to the three categories affected by the bill and Chapter 125. Limited license holders must have trained as apprentice pilots for two years and are granted a limited license based on their ability, skill, and experience determined by the board through observation of their performance. Chapter 727 of 1984 established the 28-foot-draft and 34-foot-draft limited licenses; Chapter 214 of 1996 established the 37-foot-draft limited license.

Background: Pilotage is the act of guiding a marine vessel by an individual who is licensed to conduct the ship into or out of port or through dangerous water. Oversight of the profession is maintained through federal and State regulation. The State Board of Pilots ensures safety in navigation of Maryland's commercial waterways by licensing pilots, maintaining continuing education credentials of pilots, and approving pilot work rules.

Vessel size and draft have increased significantly, and various channels in the Chesapeake Bay have been dredged to accommodate the larger vessels since the institution of the three limited license categories. Chapter 125 adjusted four sections of State law related to the limited license categories to reflect the new conditions. However, two additional sections that should have been changed were overlooked; the bill brings those sections into conformity with the other four sections of law.

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 - February 14, 2011
mc/mcr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 21, 2011

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Board of Pilots – Limited Licenses to Provide Pilotage

BILL NUMBER: SB 294

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.