

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 850

(Senator King)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Rules and Executive Nominations

Health Occupations - Qualifications for Licensure - Mortuary Science, Funeral
Direction, and Apprenticeship

This bill requires that applicants for a mortician or funeral director license from the State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors obtain their education from a school that is both accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE) *and* approved by the board. An individual seeking approval of an apprentice license must complete two-thirds of the academic credits for a mortuary science program at a school *or in a course* accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service *and* approved by the board.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Uncodified language exempts, from the requirements of the bill, individuals who applied for an apprentice license on or before October 1, 2011, and had completed two-thirds of the academic credits at an approved mortuary science program at the time of application. By December 1, 2012, the board must adopt regulations to implement the bill.

Current Law: The board must issue a mortician or funeral director license to an individual who has graduated with an associate of arts degree in mortuary science from a school that is accredited by ABFSE *or* approved by the board, or has acquired at least an associate of arts degree and completed a course in mortuary science that is accredited by ABFSE *or* approved by the board.

Prior to appearing before the board for approval of an apprentice license, an individual must complete two-thirds of the academic credits for a mortuary science program or school accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service *or* approved by the board, with a 2.0 grade point average or higher that is verified with a certified copy of the college transcript.

Background: According to the board, ABFSE may approve a mortuary science program or course that may be inconsistent with the Maryland Morticians and Funeral Directors Act. Recently, some mortuary science programs (both local institutions and courses offered online) were allowing students to practice embalming at Maryland funeral homes rather than in a campus laboratory. While allowed under ABFSE guidelines, provided that consent is provided by decedents' families, this practice is not allowed under Maryland law. The bill is intended to allow the board to not recognize educational programs with components that are inconsistent with Maryland law, despite approval by ABFSE.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1150 (Delegate A. Kelly) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2012
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