

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 368

(Delegate Norman, *et al.*)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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 seven plumber members – one member must be from Carroll or Howard counties and one member must be from Cecil or Harford counties.

The bill takes effect May 1, 2013.

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 Carroll, Cecil, Harford, or Howard counties; thus, the bill applies greater statutory specificity to 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. The remaining members of the board are from Baltimore City and Garrett, Worcester, and Anne Arundel counties. The two consumer positions and one industry member position (Baltimore City) are vacant.

Exhibit 1
Population Changes in Counties Affected by HB 883

	<u>1990 Census</u>	<u>2000 Census</u>	<u>2010 Census</u>	<u>% Increase Since 1990</u>
Carroll	123,372	150,897	167,134	35.5%
Howard	187,328	247,842	287,085	53.3%
Total	310,700	398,739	454,219	46.2%
Cecil	71,347	85,951	101,108	41.7%
Harford	182,132	218,590	244,826	34.4%
Total	253,479	304,541	345,934	36.5%

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Comments: Legislative Services advises that the delayed implementation of the bill ensures 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, which is April 30, 2013.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 883 of 2011 and HB 533 of 2010 received unfavorable reports from the House Economic Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2012
mc/mcr Revised - House Third Reader - March 19, 2012

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