

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 355

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

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Board of Stationary Engineers - Qualifications for Stationary Engineer's
Examination - Grade 1 and Grade 2

This departmental bill authorizes an applicant for a Grade 1 or Grade 2 stationary engineer's examination to receive one year of credit for holding a current active license as a master restricted refrigeration contractor with the State Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVACR) Contractors.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal acceleration of general fund revenues from fees collected from individuals eligible for licensure under the bill; however, the amount is anticipated to be negligible. The State Board of Stationary Engineers can implement the bill with existing 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). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Chapter 613 of 2005 (HB 1589) requires an individual to be licensed by the State Board of Stationary Engineers before providing stationary engineering services in the State. Licenses are issued in five grades, generally distinguished by the horsepower of the boiler the licensee is authorized to oversee. A license is required of any individual who oversees a boiler that operates at a pressure of more than 15 pounds per square inch and a minimum of 30 horsepower. A Grade 1 licensee may oversee operation of a boiler that can operate at 500 or more horsepower, while a Grade 2 licensee may only oversee operation of boiler that can operate at 300 to 499 horsepower.

To qualify for licensure as a stationary engineer, an applicant must meet specified educational and experience requirements and pass an examination administered by the board. Before taking an examination for any grade, an applicant must qualify based on the applicant's education, experience, or some combination of the two. For both Grade 1 and 2 licenses, a candidate may receive one year of credit for holding a current active license as a:

- master plumber;
- master HVACR contractor from the State Board of HVACR Contractors; or
- master restricted heating, ventilation, or air conditioning (but not refrigeration) contractor from the State Board of HVACR Contractors.

DLLR advises that the exclusion of a master restricted refrigeration license from the list of accepted licenses appears to have been unintentional.

Original and renewal license fees are \$65 and \$50 for Grade 1 and 2 licenses, respectively. Examination fees are paid directly to an examination service approved by the board and are \$65 for any examination category.

State Board of HVACR Contractors

The State Board of HVACR Contractors licenses individuals who offer heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration services to protect the public, maintain efficient and safe systems, and promote high professional standards in the industry. "Providing heating, ventilation, air conditioning, or refrigeration services" means installing or maintaining heating systems, cooling systems, refrigeration systems, ventilation systems, or hydronic systems. The board issues the following types of licenses: master, master restricted, limited, journeyman, journeyman restricted, and apprentice.

A master license authorizes an individual to provide all HVACR services. A master restricted license authorizes an individual to provide HVACR services in one of the following categories: (1) heating – forced air systems; (2) heating – hydronic systems; (3) ventilation; (4) air conditioning; or (5) refrigeration. An individual may hold restricted licenses in up to four categories.

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 15, 2013
ncs/mcr

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Board of Stationary Engineers – Qualification for Grades 1 and 2
Stationary Engineer’s License Examination

BILL NUMBER: HB 355

PREPARED BY: Department of Labor, License 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.