

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 77 (Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Labor,  
Licensing and Regulation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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State Board of Plumbing - Continuing Professional Competency - Master  
Plumbers and Master Natural Gas Fitters

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This departmental bill requires the State Board of Plumbing to establish, by regulation, continuing professional competency requirements for licensed master plumbers and licensed master natural gas fitters. Licensees must complete 16 educational hours as a condition of each license renewal beyond the first. The requirement is phased in for specified licensees whose license expires before October 1, 2016.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill's requirements can be handled with 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). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The State Board of Plumbing is housed within DLLR's Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing. The board has three statutorily established purposes: (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.

Under State law, the board regulates the plumbing industry throughout most of Maryland, but it lacks jurisdiction in Baltimore County as well as in areas of Montgomery and Prince George's counties under the jurisdiction of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. The licenses issued by the board are not valid in these jurisdictions; however, Baltimore County does require applicants for their journey examination to hold a current State apprentice license.

To provide plumbing services throughout most of the State, a person must be licensed by the board. The board issues three different plumbing licenses: master, journey, and apprentice. These licenses are typically held in conjunction with the equivalent gas fitters license. Journey plumbers and journeyman natural gas fitters are licensed to provide plumbing services while under the direction and control of a master plumber. Apprentice plumbers or gas fitters must have at least four years of experience and at least 7,500 hours under the direction and control of a master plumber or natural gas fitter to qualify to sit for the journey examination. Licenses are valid for two years and are issued on a staggered basis.

**Background:** Other boards recently required to establish programs of continuing professional competency include the boards regulating professional engineers (2010), home inspectors (2011), and architects (2012). Continuing education requirements for master electricians were also required beginning in 2011. See the **Appendix – Continuing Professional Competency/Continuing Education Requirements** for additional information on occupational and professional licensing education requirements.

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### 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 15, 2013  
ncs/mcr

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**Appendix – Continuing Professional Competency/Continuing Education Requirements  
DLLR Occupational and Licensing Boards and Commissions**

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<u>Board or Commission</u>	<u>Number of Hours or Courses/Frequency</u>
Athletic Commission	N/A
Board of Architects	24 education hours per 2-year renewal
Board of Barbers	N/A
Board of Cosmetologists	N/A
Board of Certified Interior Designers	10 education hours per 2-year renewal
Elevator Safety Review Board	Yes, must be established by regulation; as of January 2013 no related regulations adopted
Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects	N/A
Board of Foresters	8 education hours per 2-year renewal
Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors	N/A
Home Improvement Commission	N/A
Board of Individual Tax Preparers	16 education hours per 2-year renewal
Board of Master Electricians	Yes, must be established by regulation; as of January 2013 no related regulations adopted
Board of Pilots	Every 5 years: 5 specified courses
Board of Plumbing	N/A
Board for Professional Land Surveyors	24 education hours per 2-year renewal
Board for Professional Engineers	24 education hours per 2-year renewal
Board of Public Accountancy	80 education hours per 2-year renewal
Real Estate Commission	15 education hours per 2-year renewal for most licensees
Commission of Real Estate Appraisers, Appraisal Management Companies, and Home Inspectors	42 education hours per 3-year renewal for real estate; up to 30 education hours per 2-year renewal for home inspectors
Board of Stationary Engineers	N/A

Source: Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation



ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Board of Plumbing – Continuing Professional Competency

BILL NUMBER: SB 77

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.