

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 582

(Delegates Beidle and Parrott)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Licensed Tree Experts - Notification

This bill requires a licensed tree expert to, within a time period established by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), notify the department electronically of companies that work under the tree expert's license and the companies' liability and property damage insurance and workers' compensation insurance, including any applicable changes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person may not engage in the work or business of a tree expert or represent themselves to the public as a tree expert without having received a license from DNR. A "tree expert" is generally a person who represents that the person is skilled in the science of tree care or removal and engages in the business or work of the treatment, care, or removal of trees over 20 feet tall for compensation. Each licensee must carry and show proof of liability and property damage insurance. Employers in general are subject to workers' compensation insurance requirements under State law. An employee under the supervision of a licensed tree expert is not required to have a license in the name of the employee.

Pursuant to DNR regulations, a licensed tree expert is responsible for the quality and content of all work performed by those working under the licensee. A licensed tree expert must disclose associations with multiple tree care companies to each tree care company for which the licensee provides tree care services or supervision of tree care services.

Background: The Maryland Tree Expert Law, adopted in 1945, addresses tree care work done for compensation on private or public property in the State and protects consumers by licensing qualified and insured tree care companies and individuals. To obtain a license, an individual must (1) be 18 or older; (2) have two years of relevant college education plus a minimum of one year of experience with a licensed tree expert or have three years of continuous experience with a licensed tree expert immediately preceding the date of application; (3) pass a DNR examination; and (4) pay an application fee. DNR licensed 1,225 tree experts for calendar 2013.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 2014
mm/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 2014

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510