

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

Senate Bill 42

(Senator Conway)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

**State Board of Dental Examiners - Appointment of Dentist and Dental Hygienist
Members - Advice and Consent of the Senate**

This bill requires the dentist and dental hygienist members of the State Board of Dental Examiners to be appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Altering the appointment process of board members does not affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Board of Dental Examiners is mandated to protect the public by regulating the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene in Maryland. Among the enumerated duties, the board issues licenses, adopts standards of practice for dentistry, investigates complaints based on alleged violations of regulations and statutes, and disciplines licensees.

The board consists of nine licensed dentists, four licensed dental hygienists, and three consumer members. The Governor must appoint the dentist and dental hygienist board members with the advice of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, from a list of names submitted to the Governor by the board. The Governor must appoint the consumer members with the advice of the Secretary and the advice and consent of the Senate.

The Senate Executive Nominations Committee reviews and interviews appointees for all appointments that require the advice and consent of the Senate and reports its recommendations on those nominations to the Senate.

Background: Exhibit 1 shows the role of advice and consent of the Senate for the appointment of board members for all health occupations boards.

Exhibit 1
Advice and Consent of the Senate for the
Appointment of Health Occupations Board Members

Advice and Consent of the Senate

Board

All Members

Chiropractic and Massage Therapy
Dietetic Practice
Environmental Health Specialists
Morticians and Funeral Directors
Physicians*
Psychologists
Social Work

Consumer Members

Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and
Speech-Language Pathologists
Dental
Nursing
Nursing Home Administrators
Occupational Therapy
Optometry
Pharmacy
Physical Therapy
Podiatry

All Members Appointed by the Governor

Residential Child Care Program Professionals

None

Acupuncture
Professional Counselors and Therapists

*Members of the allied health advisory committees are appointed by the State Board of Physicians.

Source: Department of Legislative Services, Laws of Maryland

For seven boards, all members must be appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate. Nine boards require the advice and consent of the Senate only for consumer members, while two boards have no advice and consent of the Senate requirement for any board members. One board requires the advice and consent of the Senate only for the six gubernatorial appointees.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 20, 2016
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