

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 201

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

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**State Board for Professional Engineers - Examination Requirements - Engineer-
in-Training**

This departmental bill allows an individual to apply for and take the Fundamentals of Engineering examination at any time prior to completing other education and experience requirements for licensure as a professional engineer. The bill also eliminates references to an application fee for the examination, which codifies the board's existing practice of not charging an application fee.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances and operations.

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: An individual may apply to the board to take the Fundamentals of Engineering examination before the individual completes other specified education and experience requirements for licensure as a professional engineer. To be eligible to do so, the applicant must either have graduated from an approved college or university curriculum or be within six months of graduating. An applicant for early examination must submit an

application to the board and pay a nonrefundable application fee, set by the board, to the board or its designee.

Background: DLLR advises that the existing statutory process for early examinations is outdated and reflects the process prior to computerized delivery of the Fundamentals of Engineering examination. The bill addresses this issue and allows the applicants to take the examination at any time, thereby encouraging candidates to become part of the licensing process at any point in their educational careers. Approximately 700 individuals take the early examination annually.

State Revenues: Currently, the board is authorized to set and collect an application fee from individuals who take the Fundamentals of Engineering examination early, but does not do so. Therefore, removing the authorization to set and collect an application fee has no effect on special fund revenues. Examination fees are paid directly to the exam vendor and have no effect on State finances.

Upon request, the board also issues engineer-in-training certificates for \$15 to individuals who have passed the Fundamentals of Engineering examination early. While the bill potentially increases the number of such requests, special fund revenues and expenditures for the Design Board's Fund are not materially affected.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 106 (Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Labor, Licensing and Regulation) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 26, 2018
md/mcr Third Reader - February 13, 2018

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Board for Professional Engineers – Fundamentals of Engineering Examination

BILL NUMBER: HB 201

PREPARED BY: Steve Long

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 Fundamentals of Engineering examination is a computer based examination that is administered by the National Council of Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES). Examination candidates register directly with NCEES now, and this process will continue if the proposed legislation is enacted.

Impact on Local Government

The proposed legislation would have no impact on local government.