

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 934

(Senator Nathan-Pulliam, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

State Board of Dental Examiners - Licensure - Faculty Members at the
University of Maryland School of Dentistry

This bill authorizes a dentist who is a faculty member at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) and who was trained at a foreign dental school to apply to the State Board of Dental Examiners for a general license to practice dentistry if the faculty member meets specified criteria.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The board must qualify the faculty member to take an examination offered by the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc. (ADEX) if the faculty member:

- completes training in a dental specialty recognized by the board;
- is board certified in a dental specialty recognized by the board;
- is a full-time faculty member at UMSOD and has completed at least seven consecutive years as a full-time faculty member at the time of application; and
- submits a written letter of support from UMSOD.

The faculty member may apply for a general license to practice dentistry if the faculty member receives a passing ADEX score. If the faculty member violates specified laws and regulations, an issued general license must be surrendered.

Current Law: Under the Health Occupations Article, individuals must obtain a license from the State Board of Dental Examiners in order to practice dentistry. Specified individuals are exempt from this requirement, including an individual licensed to practice dentistry in another state or a foreign country while the individual (1) makes a clinical demonstration before a dental society, dental convention, association of dentists, or dental college, or (2) performs professional duties on a specific case for which the individual is called into the State.

An applicant for licensure must hold a degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery, Doctor of Dental Medicine, or the equivalent, from a college or university that is authorized by any state or any province of Canada and that is recognized by the board as providing adequate training and instruction. An applicant must also pass an examination given by the board; however, an examination is not required for a teacher's license or a limited license to practice dentistry.

To qualify for a teacher's license, in addition to the aforementioned requirements, the applicant must (1) be licensed to practice dentistry in any other state; (2) have been active in the dental profession for at least five years; (3) be a full-time or part-time faculty member at a college or university where the applicant teaches a subject required by the dental school of that college or university; and (4) if the applicant is engaged in a teaching area that is designated as a specialty by the American Dental Association (ADA), meet the requirements established by ADA for that specialty.

The board may grant a waiver for a teacher's license if the applicant (1) holds a degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery, Doctor of Dental Medicine, or an equivalent degree from a school, college, or faculty of dentistry; (2) the applicant demonstrates that the applicant has had at least five years of clinical dental experience; (3) the applicant is found to be of good moral character and professionally competent; (4) the Dean of UMSOD requests the waiver and circumstances exist that justify the granting of a waiver; and (5) the applicant is appointed to a full-time or part-time faculty position at UMSOD.

A teacher's license granted pursuant to a waiver authorizes the licensee to practice dentistry to the same extent as other faculty members who hold general licenses to practice dentistry, as long as the licensee only practices dentistry at established teaching sites and faculty programs of UMSOD. The teacher's license must be immediately surrendered when the licensee ceases to hold an appointment as a full-time or part-time faculty member at UMSOD.

Background: 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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 800 (Delegate Pena-Melnyk, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): University System of Maryland; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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