

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

Senate Bill 106

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

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

---

**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**Background:** DLLR advises that the existing statutory process for early examinations is outdated and reflects the process prior to computerized delivery of the Fundamentals of Engineering examination.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:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 9, 2018  
md/mcr Third Reader - January 19, 2018

---

Analysis by: Stephen M. Ross

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

## ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

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

BILL NUMBER: SB 106

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.