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Maryland General Assembly
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FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 655
(Senator Simonaire)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Business Occupations and Professions - Professional Engineers - Examination and Continuing Professional Competency Requirements

This bill requires an applicant for licensure as a professional engineer under the work-experience-only option to take and pass the fundamentals of engineering examination prior to taking the principals and practice of engineering examination. This conforms to the testing process for other eligible experience/education combinations. The bill also specifies that an out-of-state licensee is deemed to have completed Maryland's engineering continuing professional competency (CPC) requirements if (1) the other state has CPC requirements and the licensee complies with those requirements and (2) the other state provides reciprocity for its licensees that are Maryland residents.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund expenditures increase by \$5,000 in FY 2020 for a one-time programming expense. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, in addition to other specified requirements, an applicant for licensure as a professional engineer by the State Board for Professional Engineers must meet one of three combinations of education and experience. In two of the three combinations, both of which include a degree from a college or university, the applicant must take and pass the fundamentals of engineering examination prior to taking

the principals and practice of engineering examination. Under the third work-experience-only option, an applicant with 12 or more years of satisfactory experience in engineering need only pass the principals and practice of engineering examination.

To qualify for a license renewal after the first, a licensee must demonstrate completion of 16 units (as allocated in regulation) of CPC. Neither statute nor regulation specifies the treatment of CPC requirements for a licensee who resides in another state and completes CPC requirements for that state.

Background: The State Board for Professional Engineers regulates and licenses professional engineers. Professional engineers practice engineering, which means providing any service or creative work that requires education, training, and experience in the application of special knowledge of the mathematical, physical, and engineering sciences and the principles and methods of engineering analysis and design.

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying's (NCEES) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing professional licensure for engineers and surveyors. NCEES develops and administers both the fundamentals of engineering and the principles and practice of engineering examinations. In Maryland, testing fees are paid directly to NCEES.

State Effect: Special fund expenditures for the State Occupational and Professional Licensing Design Board's Fund increase by \$5,000 in fiscal 2020 for a one-time programming expense to incorporate out-of-state licensee CPC into the existing licensing system. Operationally, board staff must become familiar with CPC requirements in other jurisdictions and CPC audits may be more resource intensive. Existing staff can handle these requirements.

Requiring an applicant for licensure as a professional engineer under the work-experience-only option to take and pass the fundamentals of engineering examination prior to taking the principals and practice of engineering examination has no effect on revenues because exam fees are paid directly to NCEES. The work-experience-only option is only used by a small number of applicants for licensure.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 998 (Delegate Parrott, *et al.*) - Economic Matters.

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

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