

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 280

(The President, *et al.*) (By Request - Administration)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

**Occupational and Professional Licensing - Service Members, Veterans, and
Military Spouses - Revisions to Reciprocity Requirements**

This Administration bill alters the eligibility requirements for a service member, veteran, or military spouse to apply for an expedited occupational or professional license from the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL). Additionally, MDL is no longer required to determine that the requirements for licensure in another state are substantially equivalent to, or exceed the requirements for, licensure in Maryland prior to issuing an expedited license.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDL can handle the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources, as discussed below. Revenues are not materially affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Administration has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Bill Summary: In addition to meeting other existing requirements, the issuance of an expedited standard license from MDL requires proof that the applicant has held *an* equivalent valid license from another state for at least one year. If an applicant has held the license for less than one year, an expedited temporary license may be issued instead, provided that the issuance does not pose a risk to public health, welfare, or safety. Additionally, *each* valid license issued by another state must be in good standing. The

temporary license allows the individual to perform regulated services while completing additional requirements for licensure in the State. Relatedly, the requirement that an expedited temporary license be issued for non-equivalent licenses is repealed.

Current Law/Background: The Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 facilitates professional licensing for active military personnel, veterans, and their spouses. The Act applies to the State’s major licensing agencies, including MDL. Under the Act, as amended by Chapter 312 of 2019, occupational and professional licensing units within MDL must issue expedited standard licenses, registrations, or certificates to military service members, veterans, and military spouses if specified education, training, and experience conditions are met. One of the conditions is that the applicant holds *a* valid license in good standing from another State. MDL must also determine that the requirements for licensure in the other state are substantially equivalent to, or exceed the requirements for, licensure in Maryland.

Expedited *temporary* licenses may be issued if the licensing requirements in the other state are not substantially equivalent, provided that the issuance does not pose a risk to public health, welfare, or safety. The temporary license allows the individual to perform regulated services while completing additional requirements for licensure in the State.

State Expenditures: MDL intends to develop a paper application and manually track applicants for temporary licensure as an interim measure until the department’s new licensing system is complete, at which point the paper application/manual tracking processes will not be needed. MDL can do so with existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 349 (The Speaker, *et al.*) (By Request - Administration) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 31, 2020
an/mcr Third Reader - March 12, 2020
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 12, 2020

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Occupational and Professional Licensing - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Revisions to Reciprocity Requirements

BILL NUMBER: SB280

PREPARED BY: Governor's Legislative Office

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