

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 439

(Senator Klausmeier)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Health Occupations - Morticians and Funeral Directors - Apprenticeships

This emergency bill alters certain education requirements to obtain a mortician or funeral director apprenticeship license. Before an individual appears before the State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors for approval of an apprentice license, the individual must *be enrolled in or have graduated from* an approved mortuary science program with a grade point average of 2.0 or higher. A licensed apprentice must remain enrolled in the program for the duration of the apprenticeship, unless the apprentice graduates. An apprentice must complete *at least* 1,000 working hours in a licensed funeral establishment under the direct supervision of the apprentice sponsor. A licensed apprentice may spend up to four years as a licensed apprentice before obtaining a mortician or funeral director license, unless the board has approved an extension. An applicant for an apprentice license and a licensed apprentice applying for renewal must submit a letter from the director of the mortuary science program in which the applicant is enrolled that includes the seal of the school and verifies that the applicant is actively enrolled in the program.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The board must issue a mortician or funeral director license to an applicant who (1) is of good moral character; (2) has completed no less than one year

and no more than two years of licensed apprenticeship, unless the board has allowed an extension; (3) has met specified education requirements; (4) passed necessary examinations; and (5) has submitted an application on board-required forms and paid the required fee.

One of the requirements for licensure as a mortician or funeral director is the successful completion of an apprenticeship. An individual must complete two-thirds of an approved mortuary science program with a minimum 2.0 grade point average to be eligible for an apprentice license. An applicant for an apprentice license must appear before the board with the applicant's sponsor. The sponsor must be (1) a licensed mortician (or funeral director in the case of a funeral director apprentice) whose license is in good standing with the board, and (2) employed by the same funeral establishment that employs the apprentice. An apprentice may have more than one apprentice sponsor.

Once issued a license, an apprentice assists a licensed mortician or funeral director as part of a training program. The apprentice must participate in at least 20 funerals and complete 1,000 working hours in a licensed funeral establishment under the direct supervision of the apprentice sponsor. Prior to 1997, an apprenticeship encompassed the completion of 2,000 working hours in a funeral establishment. An apprentice who wishes to become a licensed mortician must also assist in the preparation and embalming of at least 20 human bodies under the direct supervision of the apprentice sponsor.

Upon termination of the sponsor-apprentice relationship, both the sponsor and apprentice must notify the board in writing of the:

- sponsor-apprentice relationship termination date;
- name, date of death, date of service, and evidence of service for each decedent for whom a funeral service was conducted in which the apprentice participated; and name, date of death, date of preparation for disposition, and a copy of the decedent's filed death certificate for each decedent for whom the apprentice assisted with preparation and embalming.

State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors

The State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors is responsible for credentialing, examination, licensure, and discipline of morticians, funeral directors, corporations, crematory operators, apprentices, surviving spouses, mortuary transport services, transporters, courtesy card holders, and holders of an executor license in Maryland. The board also licenses, permits, and inspects funeral establishments and specified crematories.

In 2019, 32 individuals applied for an apprenticeship license. As of January 2020, there are 81 active apprentices.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 106 (Delegate Krebs, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 27, 2020
rh/jc Third Reader - March 14, 2020
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 14, 2020
Revised - Correction - March 14, 2020

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