

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1030 (Delegate Saab)
Health and Government Operations

**State Board of Dental Examiners – Membership – Nomination and Appointment
Process**

This bill alters the nomination and appointment process for specified members of the State Board of Dental Examiners (BDE) by repealing the requirement that the board solicit nominations and conduct a balloting process for each licensed dentist and dental hygienist vacancy. Instead, the Governor must appoint licensed dentist and dental hygienist members from a specified list. A notice of vacancy for a licensed dentist or dental hygienist member of the board must (1) include a description of the nomination and appointment process for membership on the board and (2) be sent by the board at least 120 days before the expiration of the term of a member or within 60 days after a vacancy on the board.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: BDE special fund expenditures decrease by a minimal amount beginning in FY 2022 due to repeal of the balloting process. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Governor must appoint the licensed dentist and dental hygienist members of the board from (1) a list of qualified individuals submitted to the Secretary of Health and the Governor by any State dental or dental hygienist organization affiliated with a national organization and that represents at least 25 licensed dentists or dental hygienists

or (2) a valid petition submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by a licensed dentist or dental hygienist with an active license.

The bill also repeals provisions that (1) specify the number of names that must be included on a list submitted for licensed dental and dental hygienist board vacancies and (2) require the board to develop guidelines for the solicitation of nominations and balloting process intended to result in diversity of the overall composition of the board.

Current Law: The board consists of nine licensed dentists, four licensed dental hygienists, and three consumer members. The Governor must appoint board members with the advice of the Secretary of Health and the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor must appoint the licensed dentist and dental hygienist board members from a list of names submitted by the board. For the list of licensed dentist candidates, the number of names on the list for one vacancy must be at least four names, for two vacancies at least three names for each vacancy, and for three or more vacancies at least two names for each vacancy. The list of licensed dental hygienist candidates must be four times the number of vacancies.

For each licensed dentist vacancy, the board must send a solicitation for nominations to fill the vacancy to each dentist licensed by the board and each State dental organization affiliated with a national organization. The board must also conduct a balloting process for each licensed dentist to vote to select the names to be submitted to the Governor. A similar process is required for a licensed dental hygienist vacancy.

The board must develop guidelines for the solicitation of nominations and balloting process that, to the extent possible, will result in the overall composition of the board reasonably reflecting the geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

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rh/jc

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