

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2021 Session

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

Senate Bill 262

(Senator Eckardt)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

**Department of Information Technology - Study of a Common Information  
 Technology Platform for Health Occupations Boards**

This bill requires the Department of Information Technology (DoIT), in consultation with the health occupations boards, to (1) review the information technology (IT) platforms used by each board, including the administrative functions used by each board and the cost of operating the platforms and (2) make recommendations on the feasibility and cost of developing a common and standardized platform for use by each board, as specified. DoIT must submit its findings and recommendations to specified committees of the General Assembly by December 1, 2021. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$250,000 in FY 2022 only. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	250,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$250,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease*

**Local Effect:** The bill does not affect local governmental operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** DoIT's recommendations must include the cost and feasibility of:

- adopting a standardized website appearance and functionality for all boards;
- offering each board the ability to send automated notices;
- the ability to translate the website of each board into other languages, as specified;
- offering a standardized method of presenting information to regulated health care providers and the public on licensing or certification, meeting scheduling and agendas, board membership and staff, public notices, and complaint processing; and
- if possible, using existing platforms employed by the boards, if consistent with the statewide IT master plan, in developing the common platform.

### **Current Law:**

#### *Health Occupations Boards*

Twenty health occupations boards share responsibility for regulating various health professions in Maryland. The boards are responsible for the examination, licensure, certification, or registration; regulation; and discipline of more than 388,000 health care providers. Additionally, the boards set standards of practice and continuing education requirements. The boards charged with regulating the health care professionals are generally funded through various fees, including license fees and registration fees. Most boards regulate 5,000 or fewer active licensees, registrants, and certificate holders; however, this number ranges from about 500 (for the Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners) to about 240,000 (for the Board of Nursing).

#### *Department of Information Technology and OneStop*

DoIT and the Secretary of Information Technology are, among other things, responsible for (1) developing and enforcing IT policies, procedures, and standards; (2) providing technical assistance, advice, and recommendations to any unit of State government; and (3) developing and maintaining a statewide IT master plan. Certain agencies, such as the Maryland Stadium Authority and the University System of Maryland, are exempt from DoIT's direct oversight.

DoIT is currently working to consolidate all of the State's license and certification platforms into a single platform known as the OneStop portal. The ultimate goal of the project is to retire outdated State paper-based applications and legacy databases used by many agencies for licensing, as these systems can be expensive to maintain and present

significant cybersecurity risks. As the project proceeds, DoIT plans to collaborate with State agencies, a few at a time, to convert their systems to OneStop.

**State Expenditures:** DoIT is currently working with a contractor to develop and implement the OneStop portal discussed above. As the ultimate goal of OneStop is to consolidate all the State's licensing systems into a single platform, the contractor is the entity most appropriate to determine how best to consolidate the health occupations boards' websites and licensing systems. DoIT advises that the contractor estimates the cost of the feasibility study required by the bill to be \$250,000; the Department of Legislative Services concurs with this estimate. Therefore, general fund expenditures increase by \$250,000 in fiscal 2022 to conduct the evaluation and develop the recommendations required by the bill.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** SB 1045 of 2020 received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 1447 of 2020, passed the House and was referred to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 224 (Delegate Krebs) - Health and Government Operations.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 12, 2021  
rh/mcr Third Reader - February 2, 2021

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