

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 182

(Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Labor)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

State Board of Electricians - Sunset Extension

This departmental bill extends the termination date for the State Board of Electricians within the Maryland Department of Labor by 10 years to July 1, 2033.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues and expenditures for the commission are maintained beyond FY 2023.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Department of Labor has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The board regulates Maryland citizens who are licensed to provide electrical services. In addition, the board also protects other citizens who rely on electricians to install wiring and electrical devices in a safe manner and to repair faulty wiring that could cause electrocution or serious injury.

Chapter 708 of 2021 repealed local authority to license master, journeyman, and apprentice electricians beginning July 1, 2021, and instead requires a State license for each of those classifications. Generally, an individual must be licensed by the State board

beginning on July 1, 2021, as a master, journeyman, or apprentice electrician, as appropriate, before engaging in the activities covered by each license. However, the Act allows local jurisdictions that issue such licenses prior to that date to instead issue registrations with comparable requirements, and for other local jurisdictions to begin to issue such registrations, subject to specified requirements. Conforming and technical changes are made to generally incorporate these provisions. Among other changes, Chapter 708:

- requires the board to adopt specified continuing education requirements for electricians (which are already required of master electricians) and makes other specified changes to continuing education requirements;
- requires the board to enforce minimum standards for the provision of electrical services consistent with the most recent version of the National Electrical Code; and
- establishes specified consumer protections, additional violations, and associated fines and penalties.

The board is 1 of approximately 60 regulatory entities and activities subject to termination unless reauthorized periodically through statute. Under the Maryland Program Evaluation Act, these entities may also be subject to an evaluation by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) within DLS prior to their termination. However, OPEGA may conduct an evaluation only if directed by specified entities or by legislation. The board is scheduled to terminate July 1, 2023; OPEGA was not asked to conduct an evaluation prior to its termination. Accordingly, the board has requested reauthorizing legislation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 19, 2022
fnu2/mcr Third Reader - February 7, 2022

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Board of Electricians - Sunset Extension

BILL NUMBER: SB 182

PREPARED BY: Robin Bailey, Executive Director

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESSES

OR

WILL HAVE A MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

N/A