

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 533

(Delegate Pena-Melnyk, *et al.*)

Economic Matters

Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration -
Immigrants

This bill prohibits a State occupational or professional licensing board from denying an occupational or professional license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets the relevant educational, training, or professional requirements. The bill defines “immigrant” as an individual (1) whose country of origin is a country other than the United States; (2) who is not a citizen of the United States; and (3) who is a Maryland resident.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations. Agencies that award professional or occupational licenses, certifications, or registrations indicate that immigration status is not considered during the application process.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 generally denies eligibility for many State or local public benefits to an alien (any person not a citizen or national of the United States). Certain exceptions apply, both to eligible individuals and to eligible public benefits. For example, emergency health services and some social services (such as soup kitchens and shelters) are excluded. However, federal law expressly denies eligibility to nonexempt aliens for a professional

license or commercial license provided by an agency of a State or local government or by appropriated funds of a State or local government.

A state may establish that an individual who is not lawfully present in the United States is eligible for any State or local public benefit for which such an individual would otherwise be ineligible only through the enactment of a state law after August 22, 1996, which affirmatively makes such individuals eligible for specified benefits.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 523 (Senator Kagan) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Agriculture; Maryland Department of the Environment; Maryland Department of Health; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510