

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

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

Senate Bill 715

(Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Labor)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Economic Matters

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**State Board of Foresters - Sunset Extension**

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This departmental bill extends the termination date for the State Board of Foresters within the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) by 10 years to July 1, 2035.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund revenues and expenditures for the board are maintained from FY 2026 through 2035.

**Local Effect:** None.

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

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** The State Board of Foresters licenses and regulates foresters to ensure the appropriate use of natural and timber resources, watershed protection, and the preservation of ecological systems and wildlife habitats. It has the authority to investigate complaints against licensed foresters and deny, suspend, or revoke a license and reprimand a licensee for specified offenses. Instead of or in addition to suspending or revoking a license, the board may impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

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, 2025; OPEGA was not asked to conduct an evaluation prior to its termination. Accordingly, the board has requested reauthorizing legislation.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 1, 2023  
rh/mcr Third Reader - March 18, 2023

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Board of Foresters – Sunset Extension

BILL NUMBER: SB 715

PREPARED BY: Christopher Dorsey, 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