

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 728

(Chair, Finance Committee)(By Request - Departmental -  
Health)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

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State Board of Examiners in Optometry - Sunset Extension

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This departmental bill extends the termination date for the State Board of Examiners in Optometry by two years to July 1, 2025, subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (MPEA). **The bill takes effect June 1, 2023.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Special fund revenues and expenditures for the board are maintained through FY 2025.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland Department of Health has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** The State Board of Examiners in Optometry is responsible for licensing individuals to practice optometry in the State, regulating the practice of optometry, investigating alleged violations of the Maryland Optometry Act, and taking disciplinary actions where warranted. The board comprises seven members: five licensed optometrists; and two consumers.

The board is one of approximately 60 regulatory entities and activities subject to termination unless reauthorized periodically through statute. Under MPEA, 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.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 202 of 2022.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 28, 2023  
js/jc Third Reader - March 16, 2023  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 16, 2023

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## ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Board of Examiners in Optometry - Sunset Extension

BILL NUMBER: SB 728

PREPARED BY: Board of Examiners in Optometry

### PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

**OR**

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

### PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposal will have no economic impact.