

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 240

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

Finance

Health and Government Operations

State Board of Examiners in Optometry – Sunset Extension

This departmental bill extends the termination date for the State Board of Examiners in Optometry by three years to July 1, 2028, subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (MPEA). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues and expenditures for the board are maintained through FY 2028.

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.

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

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced in the last three years. See SB 728 of 2023 and SB 202 of 2022.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 12, 2024
km/jc Third Reader - February 7, 2024

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES
Maryland Department of Health
Session 2024

BILL TITLE: State Board of Examiners in Optometry – Sunset Extension

Bill Number: SB 240

PREPARED

BY:

(Program\Unit): Health Occupations Boards & Commissions/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 has no economic impact.