

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 236

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

Finance

Health and Government Operations

State Acupuncture Board – Sunset Extension

This departmental bill extends the termination date for the State Acupuncture Board 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: Chapter 620 of 1994 created the State Acupuncture Board. The board (1) licenses acupuncturists, registers auricular detoxification specialists (ADS), and issues certificates to practice acupuncture on animals; (2) receives and resolves complaints regarding acupuncturists; and (3) sets standards for the practice of acupuncture. The board’s mission is to protect the public through the licensure and regulation of acupuncturists; ensuring that those seeking licensure and those continuing to practice acupuncture and East Asian medicine in Maryland meet State standards, and investigating

complaints when a violation is alleged. As of September 2023, the board regulated 1,213 active acupuncturists and 32 active ADS.

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 not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 11, 2024
rh/jc Third Reader - January 31, 2024

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

BILL TITLE: State Acupuncture Board – Sunset Extension
BILL NUMBER: SB0236
PREPARED BY:
(Program\Unit): Health Occupations Boards & Commissions/Acupuncture Board

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.