

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 296

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

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Economic Matters

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State Board for Professional Land Surveyors - Sunset Extension

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This departmental bill extends the termination date for the State Board for Professional Land Surveyors within the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) by three years to July 1, 2027, subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (MPEA). It also requires MDL to submit a report to the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee (JAEC) by July 1, 2025, with information – regarding the State Board for Professional Land Surveyors – to be determined by JAEC. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2024.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Special fund revenues and expenditures for the board are maintained through FY 2027. MDL can likely submit the required report with existing resources.

**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. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** Maryland has regulated the practice of land surveying since 1939. Initially, the licensure of professional land surveyors and professional engineers was managed by a joint board, but in 1977, an independent board for the registration of professional land surveyors was established. The board’s primary purpose is to license and

regulate the practice of land surveying in the State, and its major functions are examining, licensing, and disciplining members of the profession. The board consists of six members appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary of Labor and the Senate. Of the six members, three must be professional land surveyors, one must be a licensed property line surveyor or professional land surveyor, and two must be consumers.

Chapter 227 of 2003 established the State Occupational and Licensing Design Boards' Fund and redirected licensing revenue associated with five "design boards" in MDL (including the State Board for Professional Land Surveyors) from the general fund to the new special fund. The Act also repealed statutory fees and instead authorized the boards to set fees by regulation.

The board is 1 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, 2024. OPEGA was not asked to conduct an evaluation prior to its termination. Accordingly, the board has requested reauthorizing legislation.

**Additional Comments:** Absent reauthorization during the 2024 legislative session, regulation of professional land surveyors (including property line surveyors) in Maryland ceases July 1, 2024.

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### **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 Labor; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 7, 2024  
km/ljm Third Reader - March 26, 2024  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 26, 2024

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**ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES**

**TITLE OF BILL: State Board for Professional Land Surveyors - Sunset Extension**

**BILL NUMBER: SB0296**

**PREPARED BY: Zevi Thomas**

**PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING**

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

  X   WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND  
SMALL BUSINESSES

**OR**

       WILL HAVE A MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND  
SMALL BUSINESSES