

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 297

(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 Engineers - Engineer Members - Qualifications**

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This departmental bill reduces the number of years (from 12 to 10) that an engineer member of the State Board of Professional Engineers must have practiced engineering.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Altering the qualifications of board members does not affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services 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 Professional Engineers consists of eight members (six engineers and two consumer members). Among other specified requirements, each engineer member of the board must have (1) practiced engineering for at least 12 years and (2) been in responsible charge of important engineering work for at least 5 years.

MDL advises that the current 12-year requirement could be considered a barrier to allowing younger individuals to serve on the board. By allowing earlier-career professionals to

qualify for service on the board, the pool of qualified candidates could expand, thus resulting in greater racial, ethnic, and/or gender diversity on the board.

Furthermore, MDL notes that the modification will bring the board into closer alignment with recent requirements established by the [National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying](#) (the national organization that develops and scores the exams for professional engineers and surveyors).

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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; National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 15, 2024  
km/mcr Third Reader - March 25, 2024  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 25, 2024

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**ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES**

**TITLE OF BILL: State Board for Professional Engineers - Engineer Members -  
Qualifications**

**BILL NUMBER: SB0297**

**PREPARED BY: Zevi Thomas**

**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**