

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

Senate Bill 239

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

Finance

Health and Government Operations

State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice – Sunset Extension

This departmental bill extends the termination date for the State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice by five years to July 1, 2030, 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 2030.

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.)

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice, established in 1979, licenses occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, sets standards for the practice of occupational therapy, and receives and resolves complaints from the public regarding occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. The seven-member board includes four licensed occupational therapists, one licensed occupational therapy assistant, and two members of the public.

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 12, 2024
km/jc Third Reader - February 7, 2024
Enrolled - April 17, 2024
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 17, 2024

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

BILL TITLE: State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice – Sunset Extension
PREPARED
BY:
(Program\Unit): Health Occupations Boards & Commissions/Occupational Therapy
 Practice Board

Bill number: SB0239

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.