

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 263

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

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Economic Matters

**Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors - License
Restoration**

This departmental bill extends the time period (from 90 days to four years) during which a licensee of the State Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVACR) Contractors may apply for a license restoration after expiration.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The State Board of HVACR Contractors can implement the bill's changes with existing budgeted resources. Revenues and expenditures are likely not materially affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: If an application for a license restoration is made within 90 days of expiration (four years under the bill), the license may be restored on payment of *the required renewal or reinstatement* fee. If application for restoration is not made within the 90-day period (four years under the bill), the State Board of HVACR Contractors may require compliance with the process for initial applications as if the applicant had never been licensed. Current renewal fees (which are the same as fees for an original

license) range from \$12 for an apprentice license to \$94.50 for a master or limited license. Fees are paid to the State Occupational Mechanical Licensing Boards' Fund.

Background: MD Labor advises that it is necessary to extend the time within which an HVACR licensee may seek renewal or reinstatement of an expired license. Under current law, any request for reinstatement after 90 days of license expiration requires an individual to qualify for an original license, including passing a license examination. Certain licensees (*e.g.*, an individual recovering from an injury) may not realize within the 90-day period that their license has expired and may not have access to the electronic application platform. The bill is intended to mirror the reinstatement requirements for other mechanical licensing boards within MD Labor.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 92 (Chair, Economic Matters Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Labor) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 19, 2025
js/mcr Third Reader - March 13, 2025

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration
Contractors – License Restoration

BILL NUMBER: SB 263

PREPARED BY: John Bull Executive Director, Mechanical Boards

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