

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 254

(Senator Montgomery, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

State Board of Examiners of Psychologists - License Renewal

This bill requires the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to send a renewal notice to a licensee at least 90 days prior to the expiration of the license and authorizes the board to send such notice by electronic mail if requested by the licensee. If a renewal notice sent by electronic mail is returned as undeliverable, the board must send a renewal notice by first-class mail. Each licensee must notify the board in writing of any change in address or electronic mail address within 30 days.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal special fund savings for the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists beginning in FY 2014 to the extent that licensees elect to have renewal notices sent by electronic mail, thereby reducing printing and postage expenses. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The State Board of Examiners of Psychologists' principal function is to issue and renew licenses for psychologists. In fiscal 2012, the board issued 157 initial and 1,296 renewal licenses.

At least one month before a license expires, the board must send a renewal notice by first-class mail to the last known address of the licensee. The renewal notice must state

the date on which the current license expires, the date by which the renewal application must be received by the board, and the amount of the renewal fee (currently \$350 for biennial renewal).

Each health occupations board in Maryland is required to send renewal notices prior to the expiration of a license or certificate. All but two boards must send such notice at least one month prior to expiration. The State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists and the State Board of Nursing must send such notice at least two months or three months prior to expiration, respectively.

Four Maryland health occupations boards (the State boards of Nursing, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy Examiners, and Environmental Health Specialists) are explicitly authorized to send renewal notices by electronic means.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 98 (Delegate Hubbard) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 23, 2013
ncs/ljm

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