

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 202

(Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Health)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

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State Board of Examiners in Optometry - Sunset Extension

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This departmental bill extends the termination date for the State Board of Examiners in Optometry by two years to July 1, 2025, subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (MPEA). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Special fund revenues and expenditures for the board are maintained through FY 2025.

**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.)

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** The board is responsible for licensing individuals to practice optometry in the State, regulating the practice of optometry, investigating alleged violations of the Maryland Optometry Act, and taking disciplinary actions where warranted. As of December 31, 2020, there were 976 active licensed optometrists in the State. The board comprises seven members: five licensed optometrists and two consumers.

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, 2023; OPEGA was not asked to conduct an evaluation prior to its termination. Accordingly, the board has requested reauthorizing legislation.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 13, 2022  
fnu2/jc Third Reader - March 14, 2022  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 14, 2022

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**ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES**  
**Maryland Department of Health**  
**Session 2022**

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**BILL TITLE:** State Board of Examiners in Optometry – Sunset Extension  
**PREPARED BY:** Linda Beyer  
**(Program/Unit):** Health Occupations Boards & Commissions/Board of Examiners  
in Optometry

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Bill Number: SB 202

**PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING**

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

X \_\_\_\_\_ 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 will have no economic impact.