

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 523

(Senator Kagan)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration - Immigrants

This bill prohibits a health occupations board from denying a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets the relevant educational, training, or professional requirements. The bill also requires each health occupations board to (1) require each applicant for a license to disclose his or her Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number and (2) record the number on the application. The bill defines “immigrant” as an individual (1) whose country of origin is a country other than the United States; (2) who is not a citizen of the United States; and (3) who is a Maryland resident.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations. The Maryland Department of Health indicates that immigration status is not considered during the application process for various health occupation credentials.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, a State licensing authority must (1) require each applicant for a license to disclose the Social Security number of the applicant and (2) record the applicant’s Social Security number on the application.

The federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 generally denies eligibility for many State or local public benefits to an alien (any person not a citizen or national of the United States). Certain exceptions apply, both to eligible individuals and to eligible public benefits. For example, emergency health services and some social services (such as soup kitchens and shelters) are excluded. However, federal law expressly denies eligibility to nonexempt aliens for a professional license or commercial license provided by an agency of a State or local government or by appropriated funds of a State or local government.

A state may establish that an individual who is not lawfully present in the United States is eligible for any State or local public benefit for which such an individual would otherwise be ineligible only through the enactment of a state law after August 22, 1996, which affirmatively makes such individuals eligible for specified benefits.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 533 (Delegate Pena-Melnyk, *et al.*) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Agriculture; Maryland Department of the Environment; Maryland Department of Health; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2022
fnu2/mcr Third Reader - April 6, 2022
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 6, 2022

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