

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 379
Economic Matters

(Delegate Jackson)

Finance

Commissioner of Financial Regulation - Name and Organization of Office

This bill expressly establishes the Office of Financial Regulation (OFR) under the Commissioner of Financial Regulation within the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL). As a result, the Office of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation (OCFR) is renamed to OFR. Additionally, the bill splits the position of Deputy Commissioner into (1) Deputy Commissioner for Depository Activities (who must have at least five years of experience in the regulation or management of financial institutions) and (2) Deputy Commissioner for Non-Depository Activities (who must have at least five years of experience in the regulation or management of persons required to be licensed or registered under the Financial Institutions Article or the Commercial Law Article). The bill also makes several conforming changes. Finally, the bill expresses the intent of the General Assembly that these changes are a nonsubstantive revision (and do not affect the powers and duties of the commissioner or the office). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: One-time costs to revise signage and other related items associated with the bill's changes can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. The salary and benefits associated with the new position can also be absorbed with existing funds. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: OCFR regulates State-chartered and State-licensed financial institutions operating in Maryland. These include depository institutions such as Maryland-chartered banks, trust companies, bank holding companies, and credit unions, as well as non-depository entities such as money transmitters, check cashers, consumer lenders, sales finance companies, installment lenders, mortgage lenders, mortgage loan originators, credit services businesses, debt management services providers, debt settlement services providers, consumer reporting agencies, and collection agencies. The activities of the office are set out in Titles 1 through 7, 11, and 12 of the Financial Institutions Article. In addition, the office supervises certain activities found in Title 12 and Title 14 of the Commercial Law Article and Title 7 of the Business Regulation Article.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 929 (Senator Griffith) - Rules.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2023
km/mcr Third Reader - March 7, 2023

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510