

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 77 (Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Labor,  
Licensing and Regulation)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**State Board of Architects and State Board for Professional Land Surveyors -  
Membership**

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This departmental bill alters eligibility requirements for professional members of the State Board of Architects and the State Board for Professional Land Surveyors.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill is procedural in nature.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary/Current Law:**

*Architects*

Under current law, of the five architect members of the State Board of Architects, at least three must be graduates of *schools of architecture* accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). Each must have practiced architecture in the State, in private practice as a primary vocation, for a minimum of 10 years. Under the bill, at least three of

the five must hold a degree from an *architecture program* accredited by NAAB, in addition to meeting the current work experience requirement. A statutory requirement that the board include two consumer members remains unchanged.

### *Professional Land Surveyors*

Under current law, one of the six members of the State Board for Professional Land Surveyors must be a licensed property line surveyor. The board has been prohibited from issuing new property line surveyor licenses since July 1, 1990, although licenses in existence prior to that date may be renewed. Under the bill, the member must be either a licensed property line surveyor or a professional land surveyor. A statutory requirement that the board include two consumer members remains unchanged.

**Background:** DLLR advises that the bill addresses the declining number of individuals eligible for appointment to the respective boards. As the number of eligible individuals decreases, it will become increasingly difficult to make appointments to the boards.

There are very few architects available for board appointment who meet the current eligibility requirements because NAAB stopped accrediting *schools* in 1975 and now only accredits *programs*. Currently, the majority of licensed architects graduated from schools that have NAAB-accredited programs, but the schools themselves are not NAAB-accredited. As noted above, no new property line surveyor licenses have been issued since July 1, 1990 – only renewals. Currently, there are only about 200 licensed property line surveyors, many of whom are nearing retirement.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 8, 2018  
md/mcr

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## **ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES**

**TITLE OF BILL:** Board for Professional Land Surveyors - Membership  
Board of Architects - Membership

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 77

**PREPARED BY:** Steven Long, Executive Director, Professional Design Boards

### **PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING**

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

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 bill simply changes eligibility requirements to serve on the Board for Professional Land Surveyors and the Board of Architects.

### **IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

None