

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1120

(Delegate Rogers, *et al.*)

Economic Matters and Health

Education, Energy, and the Environment and
 Finance

Professional Licensing Portability - Members of the Foreign Service and Spouses

This bill explicitly authorizes a Foreign Service member or a Foreign Service member’s spouse who relocates to the State due to an assignment or detail to the State and holds a license issued by another state to practice under that license for the duration of the assignment or detail within Maryland if the individual provides specified documentation and satisfies other criteria. If a Foreign Service member or spouse is authorized to practice under the bill’s provisions, the individual may practice only in the discipline and scope of practice allowed by the license in the other state, and the licensing authority in the State may not require another license unless the individual seeks to practice outside of the authorized discipline or scope of practice. A Foreign Service member or spouse authorized to practice under the bill (1) may practice to the same extent and capacity as an individual licensed in the State, including supervision of a licensed individual required to practice under supervision, and (2) is subject to the same disciplinary authority as an individual licensed in the State. Each licensing authority may adopt regulations to carry out the bill. The bill also makes conforming changes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General and special fund expenditures may increase in FY 2027 for updates to licensing systems, as discussed below. General and special fund revenues may decrease indeterminately beginning in FY 2027 due to reduced license fee revenue, as discussed below.

| (in dollars) | FY 2027 | FY 2028 | FY 2029 | FY 2030 | FY 2031 |
|----------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| GF/SF Rev. | (-) | (-) | (-) | (-) | (-) |
| GF Expenditure | \$30,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| SF Expenditure | \$15,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Net Effect | (\$-) | (\$-) | (\$-) | (\$-) | (\$-) |

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Local operations and finances are not significantly affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal, as discussed below.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law:

Authorization to Practice Under the Bill for Foreign Service Members and Spouses

Definitions: “Member of the Foreign Service” means an individual who is employed in the Foreign Service of the United States. “Licensing authority” means an agency of the State that issues a license. “License” means a license, permit, certification, registration, or other legal authorization required for engaging in an occupation or a profession.

Application Process: A member of the Foreign Service or spouse must:

- provide the licensing authority with a copy of the notification of assignment or detail;
- remain in good standing with (1) the regulatory authority that issued the initial license and (2) all states in which the applicant holds or has held a license of similar scope of practice and in the same discipline;
- have actively used the license within the two years immediately preceding relocation; and
- comply with the standards of practice, discipline, and fulfillment of any continuing education requirements required by the licensing authority in Maryland.

Authorizations and Licensure – In General

Generally, under current law, an individual must be licensed by the appropriate licensing authority before practicing specified occupations in the State. For certain occupations, there are pathways to practicing in Maryland more readily, including through interstate compacts, licensure by reciprocity, and expedited licensure for veterans.

Licensing compacts are legally binding agreements between two or more states that allow providers licensed in one state to practice in another state without requiring an additional license. As of November 2025, the State has entered eight health occupations licensing compacts: the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact; the Nurse Licensure Compact; the Interstate Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact; the Interstate Physical Therapy Licensure Compact; the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; the

Counseling Compact; the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact; and the Social Work Licensure Compact.

Section 1-704 of the Health Occupations Article requires each health occupations board to expedite the licensure, certification, or registration of an active service member, eligible veteran, or eligible spouse. Moreover, a board must assign to each such applicant an advisor to assist with the application process. If an active service member, eligible veteran, or eligible spouse meets the requirements for licensure, certification, or registration, a board must issue the license, certificate, or registration within 15 business days after receiving a completed application. If a board determines that an active service member, eligible veteran, or eligible spouse does not meet the education, training, or experience requirements for licensure, certification, or registration, a representative of the board must assist the applicant in identifying programs that offer relevant education or training or ways of obtaining needed experience. Section 2.5-106 of the Business Regulation Article, Section 6-101.1 of the Education Article, and Section 11-612.2 of the Financial Institutions Article contain similar provisions for other licenses, including educator and mortgage loan originator licenses.

The bill does not apply to an occupation or profession for which an individual may practice in the State under an interstate compact or to the practice of law. Additionally, although the Board of Architects offers licensure by reciprocity, an individual authorized to practice architecture in the State under the bill may not be required to apply for a license by reciprocity.

Applicable Licenses Under the Bill

Exhibit 1 lists the licenses for which, under the bill, an eligible Foreign Service member or spouse can be authorized to practice in the State.

Exhibit 1
Authorizations to Practice in Maryland Under the Bill

| Article | Licensing Authority | License(s) |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| State Government § 9-1A-06 | State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission | Video lottery operator; video lottery manufacturer; video lottery employee; a person that manages, operates, supplies, provides security for, provides service for, provides maintenance for, or provides repairs for video lottery terminals or table games |

| Article | Licensing Authority | License(s) |
|--|---|--|
| State Government § 9-1E-05 | State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission | A person that operates sports wagering; a person that operates sports wagering on behalf of a sports wagering licensee, including an online sports wagering operator; an individual directly employed in the operation of sports wagering by a sports wagering licensee if the individual does not otherwise hold a valid license; a person that manages, operates, supplies, provides security for, provides service for, provides maintenance for, or provides repairs for sports wagering equipment and devices |
| Agriculture § 2-313 | Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners | A person authorized to practice veterinary medicine |
| Agriculture § 5-207 | Secretary of Agriculture | Pest control consultant; pest control applicator; public agency applicator; private applicator; a person that sells or distributes a restricted use pesticide |
| Agriculture § 8-802 | Department of Agriculture | Nutrient management consultant |
| Agriculture § 8-803.4 | Department of Agriculture | Professional fertilizer applicator |
| Agriculture § 11-405 | Secretary of Agriculture | Farm milk tank calibrator; milk sample tester |
| Business Occupations and Professions (BOP) § 2-301 | Board of Public Accountancy | Certified public accountant |
| BOP § 3-302 | Board of Architects | Architect |
| BOP § 4-301 | Board of Barbers | Barber |
| BOP § 5-301 | Board of Cosmetologists | Cosmetologist |
| BOP § 6-301 | Board of Electricians | Master electrician; journey person electrician; apprentice electrician |
| BOP § 6.5-301 | Board of Stationary Engineers | Stationary engineer |
| BOP § 7-301 | Board of Foresters | Forester |

| Article | Licensing Authority | License(s) |
|----------------|---|--|
| BOP § 8-301 | Board of Certified Interior Designers | Certified interior designer |
| BOP § 9-301 | Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects | Landscape architect |
| BOP § 10.5-102 | Department of Labor | Land professional |
| BOP § 11-401 | Board of Pilots | Pilot |
| BOP § 12-301 | Board of Plumbing | Plumber; assistant plumber; propane gas technician; natural gas technician |
| BOP § 13-401 | Secretary of State Police | Private detective |
| BOP § 14-301 | Board for Professional Engineers | Engineer |
| BOP § 15-301 | Board for Professional Land Surveyors | Land surveyor; property line surveyor |
| BOP § 16-301 | Commission of Real Estate Appraisers, Appraisal Management Companies, and Home Inspectors | Real estate appraiser |
| BOP § 16-3A-01 | Commission of Real Estate Appraisers, Appraisal Management Companies, and Home Inspectors | Home inspector |
| BOP § 16-501 | Commission of Real Estate Appraisers, Appraisal Management Companies, and Home Inspectors | Certified real estate appraiser |
| BOP § 17-301 | Real Estate Commission | Real estate broker; associate real estate broker; real estate salesperson |
| BOP § 18-301 | Secretary of State Police | Security system technician |
| BOP § 19-401 | Secretary of State Police | Security guard |
| BOP § 20-301 | Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services | Private home detention monitoring agency |
| BOP § 21-301 | Board of Individual Tax Preparers | Individual tax preparer |

| Article | Licensing Authority | License(s) |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Business Regulation § 4-303 | State Athletic Commission | Manager, referee, judge, second, matchmaker, wrestler, contestant, or promoter in a wrestling (or other regulated) contest |
| Business Regulation § 4-403 | Secretary of Labor | Athlete agent |
| Business Regulation § 8-301 | Home Improvement Commission | Contractor; home improvement salesperson |
| Business Regulation § 9A-301 | Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors | Heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration contractor |
| Business Regulation § 12-201 | Secretary of Labor | Pawnbroker; secondhand precious metal objects dealer |
| Business Regulation § 12.5-201 | Secretary of Labor | Locksmith |
| Business Regulation § 17-906 | County Circuit Court Clerk (in all but Calvert County) | Peddler |
| Business Regulation § 17-917 | Calvert County Circuit Court Clerk | Peddler; magazine seller in Calvert County |
| Business Regulation § 17-1005 | County Circuit Court Clerk | Junk dealer; scrap metal processor; agent of junk dealer or scrap metal processor |
| Business Regulation § 17-1403 | County Circuit Court Clerk | Outdoor music festival promoter |
| Business Regulation § 17-1803 | County Circuit Court Clerk | Trader or exhibitor |
| Business Regulation § 17-20A-02 | State Comptroller | Transient vendor |
| Education § 6-126 | State Superintendent of Schools | Teacher |
| Education § 6-704.1 | Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board | School counselor |
| Education § 13-516 | Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board | EMS provider |
| Environment § 2-406 | Department of the Environment | Incinerator operator |

| Article | Licensing Authority | License(s) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Environment § 8-304 | Secretary of the Environment | Radiation machine inspector |
| Environment § 9-228 | Department of the Environment | Scrap tire storer; scrap tire hauler; scrap tire collection facility operator; scrap tire recycler |
| Environment § 9-11A-15 | Board of On-Site Wastewater Professionals | On-site wastewater services provider |
| Environment § 12-301 | Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators | Superintendent; operator; industrial operator (waterworks, wastewater works, or industrial wastewater works) |
| Environment § 13-301 | Board of Well Drillers | Well driller |
| Environment § 15-807 | Department of the Environment | Surface miner |
| Environment § 17-301 | Marine Contractors Licensing Board | Marine contractor |
| Financial Institutions § 11-403 | Commissioner of Financial Regulation | Sales finance company |
| Financial Institutions § 12-405 | Commissioner of Financial Regulation | Money transmitter |
| Health-General § 17-205 | Secretary of Health | A person that offers or performs medical laboratory tests or examinations |
| Health-General § 17-305 | Secretary of Health | Tissue bank operator |
| Health Occupations § 1A-301 | Acupuncture Board | Acupuncturist |
| Health Occupations § 2-301 | Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists | Audiologist; hearing aid dispenser; speech-language pathologist; music therapist; speech-language pathology assistant; audiology assistant |
| Health Occupations § 3-301 | Board of Chiropractic Examiners | Chiropractor |
| Health Occupations § 4-301 | Board of Dental Examiners | Dentist; dental hygienist |
| Health Occupations § 4-505 | Board of Dental Examiners | Dental radiation technologist |

| Article | Licensing Authority | License(s) |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Health Occupations § 5-301 | Board of Dietetic Practice | Dietician-nutritionist |
| Health Occupations § 6-301 | Board of Massage Therapy Examiners | Massage therapist |
| Health Occupations §§ 7-301 – 7-302 | Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors | Mortician; funeral director |
| Health Occupations § 8-301 | Board of Nursing | Registered nurse; practical nurse; advanced practice registered nurse |
| Health Occupations § 8-6A-02 | Board of Nursing | Nursing assistant; dialysis technician; medication technician |
| Health Occupations § 8-6B-07 | Board of Nursing | Electrologist; teacher of an electrology education program |
| Health Occupations § 8-6C-06 | Board of Nursing | Direct-entry midwife |
| Health Occupations § 8-6D-02 | Board of Nursing | Certified midwife |
| Health Occupations § 9-301 | Board of Long-Term Care Administrators | Nursing home administrator |
| Health Occupations § 9-3A-01 | Board of Long-Term Care Administrators | Assisted living manager |
| Health Occupations § 10-301 | Board of Occupational Therapy Practice | Occupational therapist; limited occupational therapist |
| Health Occupations § 11-301 | Board of Examiners in Optometry | Optometrist |
| Health Occupations § 12-301 | Board of Pharmacy | Pharmacist |
| Health Occupations § 12-6B-01 | Board of Pharmacy | Pharmacy technician |
| Health Occupations § 12-6D-02 | Board of Pharmacy | Pharmacy intern |
| Health Occupations § 13-301 | Board of Physical Therapy Examiners | Physical therapist; limited physical therapist |
| Health Occupations § 14-301 | Board of Physicians | Physician |
| Health Occupations § 14-5A-08 | Board of Physicians | Respiratory care practitioner |
| Health Occupations § 14-5B-08 | Board of Physicians | Radiation therapist; radiographer; nuclear medicine technologist; radiology assistant |

| Article | Licensing Authority | License(s) |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Health Occupations § 14-5C-08 | Board of Physicians | Polysomnographic technologist |
| Health Occupations § 14-5D-07 | Board of Physicians | Athletic trainer |
| Health Occupations § 14-5E-08 | Board of Physicians | Perfusionist |
| Health Occupations § 14-5F-10 | Board of Physicians | Naturopathic doctor |
| Health Occupations § 14-5G-08 | Board of Physicians | Genetic counselor |
| Health Occupations § 15-301 | Board of Physicians | Physician assistant |
| Health Occupations § 16-301 | Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners | Podiatrist |
| Health Occupations § 17-301 | Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists | Clinical alcohol and drug counselor; clinical marriage and family therapist; clinical professional art therapist; clinical professional counselor |
| Health Occupations § 17-6A-10 | Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists | Behavior analyst |
| Health Occupations § 18-301 | Board of Examiners of Psychologists | Psychologist; psychology associate |
| Health Occupations § 19-301 | Board of Social Work Examiners | Certified social worker; certified social worker-clinical; master social worker; bachelor social worker |
| Health Occupations § 20-301 | Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals | Program administrator; residential child and youth care practitioner |
| Health Occupations § 21-301 | Board of Environmental Health Specialists | Environmental health specialist |
| Insurance § 10-103 | Insurance Commissioner | Insurance producer |
| Insurance § 10-203 | Insurance Commissioner | Adviser |
| Insurance § 10-304 | Insurance Commissioner | Bail bondsman |

| Article | Licensing Authority | License(s) |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Insurance § 10-403 | Insurance Commissioner | Public adjuster |
| Insurance § 26-201 | Insurance Commissioner | Motor club service provider |
| Labor and Employment § 7-301 | Commissioner of Labor and Industry | Farm labor contractor |
| Labor and Employment § 9-6A-09 | Workers' Compensation Commission | Rehabilitation counselor; vocational evaluator; disability management specialist; case manager; rehabilitation registered nurse |
| Natural Resources § 4-211 | Department of Natural Resources | Taxidermist |
| Natural Resources § 5-417 | Department of Natural Resources | Tree expert |
| Public Safety § 11-105 | State Fire Marshal | Explosives handler, manufacturer, or dealer |
| Public Safety § 12-606 | State Fire Marshal | Nongovernmental electrical inspector |
| Public Safety § 12-826 | Elevator Safety Review Board | Elevator mechanic; elevator contractor; elevator renovator contractor; elevator renovator mechanic; accessibility lift mechanic |
| Public Utilities § 7-317 | Public Service Commission | Energy salesperson |
| Public Utilities § 7-318 | Public Service Commission | Energy vendor |
| Public Utilities § 24-106 | Public Service Commission | Master plumber/gasfitter |
| Transportation § 15-402 | Motor Vehicle Administration | Vehicle salesman |
| Transportation § 15-502 | Motor Vehicle Administration | Automotive dismantler and recycler; scrap processor; junk purchaser; junk tower; junk remover |
| Transportation § 15-602 | Motor Vehicle Administration | Title service agent |
| Transportation § 15-702 | Motor Vehicle Administration | Drivers' school conductor |
| Transportation § 15-802 | Motor Vehicle Administration | Driving instructor |

| Article | Licensing Authority | License(s) |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Transportation § 23-103.1 | Automotive Safety Enforcement Division | Inspection mechanic |

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Miscellaneous

Under current law, the Automotive Safety Enforcement Division of the Department of State Police must administer an examination to each inspection mechanic applicant. The bill alters that provision such that an individual authorized to conduct vehicle inspections under the bill must not be required to take the examination.

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act

Recent changes to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) allow for professional license portability for Foreign Service members and the spouses of Foreign Service members. In general, the provisions in the federal law regarding the application process mirror the procedures established in the bill.

State Fiscal Effect: As discussed below, certain licensing authorities in the State anticipate additional expenditures for programming changes to implement the bill, in addition to potential reduced revenues from licensing fees. The Department of Legislative Services advises, however, that because many of the changes in the bill codify SCRA, some of these fiscal effects may not be directly attributable to the bill, but instead to federal requirements.

Maryland Department of Agriculture

The Maryland Department of Agriculture advises that most of the licenses for which the bill applies already have no-fee interstate reciprocity, with the exception of veterinarians. The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (SBVME) estimates that no more than 10 Foreign Service members and/or spouses will seek licensure as a veterinarian under the bill, and current license fees are \$300 annually. Therefore, special fund revenues may decrease by up to \$3,000 on an annual basis.

SBVME advises that the bill may require modifications to its licensure software to accommodate the new authorization. Based on an estimate from similar projects, special fund expenditures may increase by at least \$15,000 in fiscal 2027 for a one-time software update.

Maryland State Department of Education

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) advises that it requires updates to the teacher licensure platform to create an alternate authorization process for Foreign Service members and their spouses eligible under the bill; thus, MSDE general fund expenditures may increase by up to \$30,000 in fiscal 2027 only.

Judiciary

The Judiciary advises that certain business licenses are issued by the clerks of the circuit courts, with license fee revenues subsequently distributed to the general fund and the municipal corporation/county where the licensed business is located, as further specified in statute. To the extent that licensing fees are not collected due to the bill's authorization process, State general fund revenues and revenues to local jurisdictions are reduced.

Other Agencies

Other agencies impacted by the bill's changes generally anticipate being able to implement the bill using existing budgeted resources. State revenues associated with other licenses are anticipated to decrease, likely only minimally, to the extent that individuals take advantage of the special procedures under the bill to practice under licenses issued in other states.

Small Business Effect: Some Foreign Service members and their spouses who require professional licenses to work for certain small businesses in the State may benefit from the authorization process under the bill. Small business employers may similarly benefit. However, any meaningful benefit is likely attributable to the federal changes to SCRA.

Additional Comments: As of September 2024, there are an estimated 14,400 Foreign Service employees in the United States.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 418 (Senator Simonaire) - Education, Energy, and the Environment and Finance.

Information Source(s): Maryland Municipal League; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Agriculture; Maryland Department of the Environment; Maryland Department of Health;

Department of Human Services; Department of Juvenile Services; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Veterans and Military Families; Maryland Insurance Administration; Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency; Public Service Commission; U.S. Department of State; Department of Legislative Services

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