



FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 224

Committee: County & Municipal Government Sponsor: Senator Chris Elliott

Analyst: Mathieu Fuller

Date: 03/20/2024

Senate Bill 224 as introduced would create the Office of Occupational and Professional Licensing within the Department of Labor to serve as a centralized entity providing leadership, support, and oversight to certain professional or occupational licensing boards operating within the state. This would increase the obligations of the Department of Labor to hire an executive director, deputy directors, and any other administrative staff the director deems necessary, and would decrease the financial obligations of such boards from personnel costs for currently employed executive directors and other staff and/or from costs for contracted management services. This bill would also streamline board member compensation by establishing a flat rate per diem of \$100 per day, which would increase or decrease the obligations of the Fund by an undetermined amount dependent upon the difference in the new flat rate and the amounts paid under existing law.

In addition, this bill would: (1) remove existing language for the transfer of excess funds to the State General Fund for various boards. Based on a four-year average, this would decrease receipts to the State General Fund by an estimated \$62,000 annually; (2) redirect any funds received by the individual boards from their current funds in the state treasury to the newly created Occupational and Professional Licensing Fund in the State Treasury; and (3) require the executive director to establish fees for the operation of the boards, which could increase or decrease receipts to the Occupational and Professional Licensing Fund by an undetermined amount dependent upon the difference in each board's current fee structure under current law and the fee structure set by the executive director under the provisions of this bill.

Beginning October 1, 2025, all documents, records, functions, and responsibilities of the following boards shall be transferred to the Office: (1) the Board of Examiners of Assisted Living Administrators, (2) the Alabama Athletic Commission, (3) the Alabama Board of



Athletic Trainers, (4) the State Board of Auctioneers, (5) the Alabama Professional Bail Bonding Board, (6) the Alabama Behavior Analyst Licensing Board, (7) the Board of Examiners in Counseling, (8) the Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors, (9) the Alabama Electronic Security Board of Licensure, (10) the State Board of Genetic Counseling, (11) the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists, (12) the Board of Home Medical Equipment, (13) the Alabama Board for Registered Interior Designers, (14) the Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators, (15) the Alabama Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects, (16) the Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy, (17) the Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board, (18) the State Board of Midwifery, (19) the Alabama Board of Optometry, (20) the State Board of Podiatry, (21) the Alabama Private Investigation Board, (22) the Alabama State Board of Prosthetists and Orthotists, and (23) the Alabama Security Regulatory Board. Based upon FY 2023, combined receipts and expenditures in board funds that would be transferred to the Occupational and Professional Licensing Board Fund on October 1, 2025 is an estimated \$4.9 million and \$4.7 million, respectively.

Beginning October 1, 2026, all documents, records, functions and responsibilities of the following boards shall be transferred to the Office: (1) the State Board of Registration for Architects, (2) the Alabama Board of Court Reporting, (3) the State Board of Examiners for Dietetics/Nutrition Practice, (4) the State Board of Registration for Foresters, (5) the Board of Hearing Instrument Dealers, (6) the Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators, (7) the Alabama State Board of Occupational Therapy, (8) the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board, (9) the Board of Physical Therapy, (10) the Polygraph Examiners Board, (11) the Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology, (12) the Alabama State Board of Respiratory Therapy, (13) the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners, and (14) the Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Based upon FY 2023 combined receipts and expenditures in board funds, the amount that would be transferred to the Occupational and Professional Licensing Board Fund on October 1, 2026 is an estimated \$4.0 million and \$3.4 million, respectively.



Beginning October 1, 2024, this bill would increase the administrative obligations of the Alabama Department of Public Health to receive all documents, records, functions and responsibilities of the Sickle Cell Oversight and Regulatory Commission.

Beginning October 1, 2024, this bill would increase the administrative obligations of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to receive all documents, records, functions and responsibilities of the Alabama Drycleaning Environmental Response Trust Fund Advisory Board.