



FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 137

Committee: Boards, Agencies and Commissions

Sponsor: Senator Garlan Gudger

Analyst: Tiffany Weaver

Date: 04/24/2024

Senate Bill 137 as reported by the Committee on Boards, Agencies and Commissions 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) 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.

This bill further would reconstitute the existing seven-member Alabama Board of Massage Therapy to the nine-member Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board on June 1, 2024 and temporarily provide that the Board of Nursing assume all duties and functions of the board until the establishment of the Office of Occupational and Professional Licensing on or before November 1, 2024.

This bill would also: (1) repeal the Alabama Board of Massage Therapy Fund and provide that all receipts of the Board be deposited into the Occupational and Professional Licensing Fund, created by



this bill; and (2) provide that all administrative rules of the former board shall remain in effect as rules of the new board until amended or repealed. This bill would provide for the continuance of the Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board until October 1, 2026 pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law.