

Proposed Action on Regulations

For information concerning citizen participation in the regulation-making process, see inside front cover.

Symbol Key

- Roman type indicates existing text of regulation.
- *Italic type* indicates proposed new text.
- [Single brackets] indicate text proposed for deletion.

Promulgation of Regulations

An agency wishing to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations must first publish in the Maryland Register a notice of proposed action, a statement of purpose, an estimate of economic impact, an economic impact on small businesses, a notice giving the public an opportunity to comment on the proposal, and the text of the proposed regulations. The opportunity for public comment must be held open for at least 30 days after the proposal is published in the Maryland Register.

Following publication of the proposal in the Maryland Register, 45 days must pass before the agency may take final action on the proposal. When final action is taken, the agency must publish a notice in the Maryland Register. Final action takes effect 10 days after the notice is published, unless the agency specifies a later date. An agency may make changes in the text of a proposal. If the changes are not substantive, these changes are included in the notice of final action and published in the Maryland Register. If the changes are substantive, the agency must repropose the regulations, showing the changes that were made to the originally proposed text.

Proposed action on regulations may be withdrawn by the proposing agency any time before final action is taken. When an agency proposes action on regulations, but does not take final action within 1 year, the proposal is automatically withdrawn by operation of law, and a notice of withdrawal is published in the Maryland Register.

Title 05

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Subtitle 24 Energy Programs

05.24.01 Leased or Rented Residences Benefiting from Weatherization Assistance

Authority: Public Utilities Article, §7-224(e), Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[25-070-P]

The Secretary of Housing and Community Development proposes to adopt new Regulations .01—.04, under a new chapter, **COMAR 05.24.01 Lease or Rented Residences Benefiting from Weatherization Assistance**, under a new subtitle, **Subtitle 24 Energy Programs**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to comply with the requirements of Public Utilities Article, §7-224(e), Annotated Code of Maryland, which states:

For weatherization of leased or rented residences, the Department shall adopt regulations to ensure that:

(a) The benefits of weatherization assistance, including utility bill reduction and preservation of affordable housing stock, accrue primarily to low-income tenants occupying a leased or rented residence; and

(b) The rent on the residence is not increased and the tenant is not evicted as a result of weatherization provided under this section.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Preston Thomas, Energy Program Manager, Department of Housing and Community Development, 7800 Harkins Road, Lanham, Maryland 20706, or call 301-429-7784, or email to multifamilyenergy.dhcd@maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through July 28, 2025. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.01 Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide requirements relating to leased or rented residences benefitting from weatherization assistance performed by the Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to Public Utilities Article, §7-224(e), Annotated Code of Maryland.

.02 Definitions.

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

(1) “Building owner” means an owner of a low-income residential property, including the owner’s agents and assignees.

(2) “Department” means the Department of Housing and Community Development, a principal department of the State.

(3) “Lease” means any oral or written agreement, express or implied, creating a landlord and tenant relationship, including any “sublease.”

(4) “Low-income program” means a program of the Department that provides funds or services to provide energy efficiency and energy conservation measures, including weatherization assistance, to buildings occupied by income-eligible households, causing those buildings to become more energy efficient or to increase energy conservation.

(5) “Low-income residential property” means a unit, building, or community of buildings, with residents who qualify for the low-income programs.

(6) “Tenant” means a person lawfully occupying a low-income residential property pursuant to a lease.

(7) “Weatherization assistance” means the installation of materials to protect the interior of a building from outside elements.

.03 Applicability.

The regulations in this chapter apply to building owners who lease low-income residential properties to tenants and who obtain weatherization assistance through the low-income programs for those properties.

.04 Requirements Applicable to Building Owners.

A. When a building owner obtains weatherization assistance for a low-income residential property, the benefits thereof, including utility bill reduction and preservation of affordable housing stock, must accrue primarily to tenants.

B. After a building owner obtains weatherization assistance for a unit of a low-income residential property, a building owner may not:

(1) Increase rent for the unit as a result of the weatherization assistance; or

(2) Terminate a lease or evict any tenant as a result of the weatherization assistance.

C. Violation of any part of this section by the building owner may result in the building owner being required to repay the Department for the low-income program's share of the cost of the weatherization assistance.

JACOB DAY
Secretary

Title 10**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH****Subtitle 32 BOARD OF PHYSICIANS****10.32.24 Licensure of Genetic Counselors**

Authority: Health Occupations Article, §§1-606, 14-205, and 14-5G-01—14-5G-29, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[25-113-P-I]

The Secretary of Health proposes to adopt new Regulations .01—.15 under a new chapter, **COMAR 10.32.24 Licensure of Genetic Counselors**. This action was considered at public Board meetings on August 23, 2023, September 27, 2023, and March 26, 2025, notice of which was given by publication on the Board's website at <https://www.mbp.state.md.us>, pursuant to State Government Article, §10-506(c)(1), Annotated Code of Maryland.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to establish a new chapter of regulations governing the practice of genetic counseling, including the implementation of licensure for licensed genetic counselors and supervised genetic counselors, as required by Health Occupations Article, §§14-5G-01—14-5G-29, Annotated Code of Maryland. Specifically, the proposed changes define certain terms, specify the makeup and duties of the Genetic Counseling Advisory Committee, provide detail on the Code of Ethics and scope of practice for licensed genetic counselors and supervised genetic counselors, specify requirements for initial licensure, renewals, and reinstatements, establish fees for licensure, and define prohibited conduct, penalties, fines, and sanctioning guidelines for genetic counselors.

Estimate of Economic Impact

I. Summary of Economic Impact. Beginning on January 1, 2024, a license will be required to practice genetic counseling in the State. The proposed action establishes fees for initial licensed genetic counselor and supervised genetic counselor licenses, renewal of licensure, reinstatement, verification of license, and replacement of

license. Genetic counselors will be required to obtain a license and renew biennially to practice in the State. Fees were developed to approximate the cost of maintaining the genetic counselors' licensure program within the Board of Physicians Allied Health unit. According to data extracted from the American Board of Genetic Counseling's "Find a Certified Genetic Counselor" directory on March 3, 2025, at least 184 certified genetic counselors currently practice in Maryland.

In order to cover the program's estimated expenditures, 184 genetic counselors expected to be fully licensed during the program's first fiscal year must produce approximately \$41,000 in licensure service fee revenue to maintain the program's operations.

According to a 2022 Professional Status Survey published by the National Society of Genetic Counselors, a full-time genetic counselor's average yearly gross salary is approximately \$100,000. Fees established under the proposed action would require genetic counselors to pay \$300 for their initial license and a \$250 biennial renewal fee. This fee schedule puts genetic counselors in alignment with licensed perfusionists.

II. Types of Economic Impact.

Impacted Entity	Revenue (R+ / R-) Expenditure (E+ / E-)	Magnitude
A. On issuing agency:		
(1) Maryland Board of Physicians	(R+)	\$55,200
(2) Maryland Board of Physicians	(E+)	\$40,828
B. On other State agencies:	NONE	
C. On local governments:	NONE	
	Benefit (+) Cost (-)	Magnitude
D. On regulated industries or trade groups:		
(1) Genetic Counselors	(-)	\$55,200
E. On other industries or trade groups:	NONE	
F. Direct and indirect effects on public:	NONE	

III. Assumptions. (Identified by Impact Letter and Number from Section II.)

A(1). Given the best estimate of 184 certified genetic counselors currently practicing in Maryland, initial licensure fees of \$300 are anticipated to generate \$55,200 in revenue.

A(2). Based on expenditure data from FY2022 for the Board of Physicians Allied Health Licensure Unit, required expenditures to implement the licensing program for genetic counselors are estimated to be \$40,828 for the first year of licensure.

D(1). Genetic counselors currently practicing in Maryland will be required to spend \$300 to obtain their initial license, and \$250 biennially in renewal fees. Assuming the 184 certified genetic counselors seek licensure, the Board will anticipate an economic impact of \$55,200 on these licensees (184 x \$300 = \$55,200).

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Jordan Fisher Blotter, Director, Office of Regulation and Policy Coordination, Maryland Department of Health,