

**Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB1291

Patron: Wiley

Bill Title: Professions and occupations; regulation of geologists; exemptions.

Bill Summary: Exempts the practice of geology by any officer, employee, agent, or contractor of the United States of America when practicing solely as such from the licensing requirements for professional geologists.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: None

Explanation: This bill involves the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR); however, no budget action is needed.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any change in workload as a result of this bill can be absorbed within existing appropriations.

Fiscal Analysis: The bill exempts federal officers, employees, and contractors from licensing requirements for professional geology. Chapter 722, 2025 Acts of Assembly, required individuals performing professional geology (as defined in the bill) to become licensed under DPOR's Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists. The current application fee for a Geologist license is \$110. The current number of individuals who are federal employees, officers, agents, or contractors who would become exempt is not known at this time. Impact estimates are not yet available from DPOR; however it is anticipated that the Board will be able to absorb any reduction to revenue as a result of this bill.

This impact estimate is preliminary and may be updated if new information becomes available.

Other: None.