

Chapter 254

(Senate Bill 400)

AN ACT concerning

Environmental Health Specialists – Licensure Examinations – Applicant Qualifications and Waiver

FOR the purpose of altering a certain educational qualification that an applicant for licensure as an environmental health specialist may meet to qualify to be examined under a certain provision of law; altering the circumstances under which the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists may waive licensure examination requirements; altering the qualifications that an applicant must meet to qualify for a waiver of examination requirements under a certain provision of law; repealing a certain obsolete provision of law; and generally relating to licensure examinations for environmental health specialists.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 21–304(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 21–304(b) and 21–306
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health Occupations

21–304.

(a) An applicant who otherwise qualifies for licensure is entitled to be examined as provided in this section.

(b) An applicant qualifies to take the examination if the applicant:

(1) (i) Has graduated from an accredited college or university with a baccalaureate degree in environmental science or environmental health; and

(ii) Has obtained 12 months of experience in an environmental health specialist-in-training program approved by the Board;

(2) (i) Has graduated from an accredited college or university with a baccalaureate degree in the physical, biological, or environmental sciences including:

1. A minimum of 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent quarter credit hours of physical, biological, and environmental sciences acceptable to the Board which includes at least one laboratory course in two of the following fields:

A. Chemistry;

B. Physics; and

C. Biology; and

2. A course in mathematics; and

(ii) Has obtained 12 months of experience in an environmental health specialist-in-training program approved by the Board;

(3) (i) Has graduated from an accredited college or university with a baccalaureate degree that includes:

1. 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent quarter credit hours in the physical, biological, and environmental sciences acceptable to the Board, which includes at least one laboratory course in two of the following fields:

A. Chemistry;

B. Physics; and

C. Biology; and

2. A course in mathematics; and

(ii) Has obtained 24 months of experience in an environmental health specialist-in-training program approved by the Board; or

(4) Has graduated from an accredited college or university with a master's degree in public or environmental health science that includes:

(i) 30 semester credit hours or 45 quarter credit hours of physical, biological, or environmental sciences acceptable to the Board **AND**

OBTAINED AT THE BACCALAUREATE OR MASTER'S LEVEL, which includes at least one laboratory course in two of the following fields:

1. Chemistry;
 2. Physics; and
 3. Biology;
- (ii) A course in mathematics; and
- (iii) 3 months of internship approved by the Board if not previously completed.

21-306.

(a) Subject to [the provisions] **SUBSECTION (B)** of this section, the Board may [make a reciprocal agreement with any other state to] waive any examination requirement of this title for an applicant who is licensed **OR REGISTERED** as an environmental health specialist or its equivalent in [that] **ANOTHER** state.

(b) [An agreement made under this section may allow the] **THE** Board [to] **MAY** grant a waiver only if the applicant:

- (1) Pays the application fee required by § 21-302 of this subtitle; and
 - (2) Provides adequate evidence that the applicant:
 - (i) Meets the qualifications otherwise required by this title;
- [and]

(ii) Became licensed **OR REGISTERED TO PRACTICE AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST OR ITS EQUIVALENT** in the other state after passing in that [or any other] state an examination [that is similar to the examination for which the applicant is seeking the waiver] **AS A CONDITION OF LICENSURE OR REGISTRATION; AND**

(III) HAS PERFORMED AT LEAST 24 MONTHS OF COMPENSATED WORK AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN THE OTHER STATE.

[(c) An agreement may be made with another state under this section only if, under the agreement, the other state waives the examination of licensed environmental health specialists of this State to a similar extent as this State waives the examination requirements for individuals licensed in that state.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2013.