

Chapter 94

(House Bill 556)

AN ACT concerning

State Board of Environmental Health Specialists – Revisions

FOR the purpose of altering the frequency with which certain officers of the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists must be elected; requiring the Board to appoint an executive director; establishing the duties of the executive director; altering certain qualifications for a certain license; altering certain requirements for applying for a certain license; altering certain education requirements for qualification to take a certain examination; repealing a requirement that certain examination papers identify the applicant only by a certain number; repealing a requirement that certain examination papers be filed with the Board secretary and kept for a certain number of years; authorizing the Board to waive a certain examination requirement for a certain applicant; repealing a certain provision of law prohibiting consumer members of the Board from participating in certain activities related to certain examinations; requiring a certain licensee to notify the Board of any changes in the licensee's address within a certain period of time; making technical corrections; and generally relating to the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health Occupations
 Section 21–203, 21–204, 21–304, 21–306, and 21–309
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2014 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing

Article – Health Occupations
 Section 21–302 and 21–303
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2014 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to

Article – Health Occupations
 Section 21–302 and 21–303
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2014 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Health Occupations

21–203.

(a) From among its members, the Board [annually] shall elect a chairman, a vice chairman, and a secretary **ONCE EVERY 2 YEARS.**

(b) The Board shall determine:

- (1) The manner of election of officers; and
- (2) The duties of each officer.

21-204.

(a) A majority of the Board is a quorum.

(b) The Board shall meet at least twice a year, at the times and places that the Board determines.

(c) A member of the Board:

- (1) May receive compensation as provided in the State budget; and
- (2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(d) The Board may employ a staff in accordance with the budget of the Board.

(E) (1) THE BOARD SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

(2) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL:

(I) SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE BOARD;

(II) ACT AS THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BOARD; AND

(III) CARRY OUT THE POWERS AND DUTIES ASSIGNED BY THE

BOARD.

[21-302.

To apply for licensure as an environmental health specialist, an applicant shall:

- (1) Submit an application to the Board on the form that the Board requires;

(2) (i) Submit verification from the applicant's employer or supervisor on forms required by the Board that the applicant has successfully completed an environmental health specialist-in-training program; or

(ii) Provide independent written verification from the applicant's employer or any prior work experience in the field of environmental health used by the applicant to satisfy the environmental health specialist-in-training requirement of this title; and

(3) Pay to the Board the required fees set by the Board.]

21-302.

TO OBTAIN A LICENSE, AN APPLICANT SHALL DEMONSTRATE TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE BOARD THAT THE APPLICANT:

(1) IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD;

(2) IS OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER;

(3) HAS SATISFIED THE EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR EXAMINATION UNDER § 21-304 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(4) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE, HAS SUCCESSFULLY PASSED AN EXAMINATION AS REQUIRED BY THE BOARD.

[21-303.

(a) To qualify for licensure under this title, an applicant shall meet the requirements of this section.

(b) The applicant must be of good moral character.

(c) The applicant must be at least 18 years old.

(d) An applicant shall be licensed by the Board if the applicant:

(1) Qualifies for the examination required under § 21-304 of this subtitle;

and

(2) Takes and attains a passing score on the examination.

(e) The Board may waive any examination requirement under this section if the Board considers the applicant to be recognized as outstanding in the field of environmental health.]

21-303.**TO APPLY FOR A LICENSE, AN APPLICANT SHALL:**

(1) SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE BOARD ON THE FORM THAT THE BOARD REQUIRES;

(2) SUBMIT AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT FROM AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY;

(3) SUBMIT WRITTEN VERIFICATION FROM THE APPLICANT'S EMPLOYER OR SUPERVISOR ON FORMS REQUIRED BY THE BOARD THAT THE APPLICANT HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST-IN-TRAINING PROGRAM; AND

(4) PAY TO THE BOARD THE APPLICATION FEE SET BY THE BOARD.

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)](1) (i) Has graduated from an accredited college or university with a baccalaureate degree in the **CHEMICAL, physical, biological, or environmental sciences, **AS DEFINED IN REGULATION**, including:**

1. A minimum of 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent quarter credit hours of **CHEMICAL**, 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]

D. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS; OR

E. SOIL SCIENCE; 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)](2) (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 **CHEMICAL**, 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]

D. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS; OR

E. SOIL SCIENCE; 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)](3) 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 **CHEMICAL**, 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;
4. **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS; OR**
5. **SOIL SCIENCE;**

(ii) A course in mathematics; and

(iii) 3 months of internship approved by the Board if not previously completed.

(c) (1) This subsection does not alter the requirement that an applicant demonstrate completion of a baccalaureate or master's degree to qualify for examination.

(2) The Board may waive any of the specific course requirements for an applicant to qualify for examination in subsection (b) of this section if the Board determines that an applicant:

(i) Has obtained an equivalent number of credit hours in a course relevant to practice as an environmental health specialist; or

(ii) Has work experience that is an acceptable substitute for a course required in subsection (b) of this section.

(3) The Board may waive the experience requirement in subsection [(b)(3)(ii)] **(B)(2)(II)** of this section if the Board determines that an applicant:

(i) Has obtained at least 12 months of experience in an environmental health specialist-in-training program; and

(ii) Has the written support of the applicant's employer.

(d) The examination shall include a written examination in the physical, biological, and environmental sciences that relates to practices and principles of environmental health.

(e) The Board shall give examinations to applicants at least once a year, at the times and places that the Board determines.

(f) The Board shall notify each qualified applicant of the time and place of examination.

(g) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, the Board shall determine the subjects, scope, form, and passing score for examinations given under this subtitle.

(2) The Board shall use professional examinations prepared by recognized examination agencies.

[(3) Examination papers shall identify the applicant only by a number assigned by the Board secretary.]

[(h) Examination papers shall be filed with the Board secretary and kept at least 1 year.]

[(i)](H) (1) An applicant who fails an examination may retake the examination as provided in the rules and regulations adopted by the Board.

(2) An applicant for reexamination shall:

(i) Submit to the Board an application on the form the Board requires; and

(ii) Pay to the Board a reexamination fee set by the Board.

[(j) Unless authorized by the Board, the consumer members of the Board may not participate in any activity related to examinations under this subtitle.]

(I) THE BOARD MAY WAIVE ANY EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE BOARD RECOGNIZES THE APPLICANT AS BEING OUTSTANDING IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.

21-306.

(a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the Board may waive any examination requirement of this title for an applicant who is licensed or registered as an environmental health specialist or its equivalent in another state.

(b) The Board may grant a waiver only if the applicant:

(1) Pays the application fee required by [§ 21-302] § 21-303 of this subtitle; and

(2) Provides adequate evidence that the applicant:

(i) Meets the qualifications otherwise required by this title;

(ii) Became licensed or registered to practice as an environmental health specialist or its equivalent in the other state after passing in that state an examination 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.

21–309.

(a) A license expires on the date specified on the license, unless it is renewed for a 2–year term as provided in this section.

(b) At least 1 month before the license expires, the Board shall send to the licensee, by first–class mail or electronic means to the last known address or electronic mail address of the licensee, a renewal notice that states:

(1) The date on which the current license expires;

(2) The date by which the renewal application must be received by the Board for the renewal to be issued and mailed before the license expires;

(3) The amount of the renewal fee; and

(4) The hours of approved training required for renewal of licensure.

(c) Before the license expires, the licensee may renew it for an additional 2–year term, if the licensee:

(1) Otherwise is entitled to be licensed;

(2) Pays to the Board the renewal fee set by the Board;

(3) Submits to the Board a renewal application on the form that the Board requires; and

(4) Submits to the Board proof that during the previous 2–year period, the licensee has acquired 20 hours of approved training in environmental health or other equivalent education as approved by the Board.

(d) The renewal license shall bear the same serial number assigned to the licensee at the time of the original registration or licensure.

(E) A LICENSEE SHALL NOTIFY THE BOARD OF ANY CHANGE IN THE ADDRESS OF THE LICENSEE WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE CHANGE OCCURS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2015.