

Chapter 476

(Senate Bill 469)

AN ACT concerning

State Board of Pharmacy – Licensure Requirements for Pharmacists – Proof of Proficiency in English

FOR the purpose of providing that, for applicants for a license to practice pharmacy, graduation from a certain school ~~schools~~ school is acceptable proof of proficiency in the oral communication of the English language under a certain provision of law; and generally relating to licensure requirements for pharmacists.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Health Occupations
 Section 12–302(g)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – Health Occupations

12–302.

(g) (1) **[The] EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION, THE** Board shall require, as part of its examination or licensing procedures, an applicant for a license to practice pharmacy to demonstrate an oral competency in the English language by passing a Board approved standardized test of oral competency.

(2) The Board shall adopt regulations that establish a procedure for testing an individual who because of the individual’s speech or hearing impairment is unable to complete satisfactorily a Board approved standardized test of oral competency.

(3) If any disciplinary charge or action that relates to a problem with the oral communication of the English language is brought against a licensee under this title, the Board shall require the licensee to pass a Board approved standardized test of oral competency.

(4) The Board may not require an applicant for a license to practice pharmacy, who was previously licensed in another state to practice pharmacy, to demonstrate an oral competency in the English language, if the other state’s examination and licensing procedures at the time the applicant was licensed in the other state included

an oral competency component similar to the oral competency component in this State's examination and licensing procedures.

(5) GRADUATION FROM A RECOGNIZED ENGLISH-SPEAKING ~~UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL AFTER AT LEAST 3 YEARS OF ENROLLMENT OR FROM A RECOGNIZED ENGLISH-SPEAKING~~ PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL ACCREDITED BY THE ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION IS ACCEPTABLE AS PROOF OF PROFICIENCY IN THE ORAL COMMUNICATION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2016.