

Chapter 662

(Senate Bill 110)

AN ACT concerning

State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners – Licensure – Qualifications and Examinations

FOR the purpose of requiring that an applicant for a license to practice podiatry pass a certain national examination and a certain examination on the statute and regulations of the State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners; repealing the requirement that the Board notify each qualified applicant who is eligible to sit for a certain examination of the time and place of the examination; requiring the Board to notify each qualified applicant who is eligible to take a certain examination of the requirements of the examination; repealing a certain provision of law authorizing the Board to use certain oral and clinical examinations in conducting a certain examination; repealing a certain provision of law limiting the subjects that may be included in a certain examination; repealing the requirement that the Board record the results of certain examinations in the Board's minutes; updating certain terminology; making certain clarifying and conforming changes; and generally relating to licensure under the State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health Occupations

Section 16–302 and 16–304

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

Article – Health Occupations

16–302.

(a) To qualify for a license, an applicant shall be an individual who meets the requirements of this section.

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

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

(d) The applicant shall be a graduate of a school or college of [podiatry] **PODIATRIC MEDICINE** that is accredited by the Council on Education of the American Podiatric Medical Association and approved by the Board.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in this title, the applicant shall pass [an]:

(1) THE NATIONAL BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS LICENSING EXAMINATION; AND

(2) A WRITTEN examination [given] ON THE BOARD'S STATUTE AND REGULATIONS ADMINISTERED by the Board under **§ 16-304** OF this subtitle.

(f) The Board may require an applicant to complete a postgraduate podiatric residency program in:

(1) A health care facility licensed or approved by the Department;

(2) A program approved by the Council on Education of the American Podiatric Medical Association or its successor; or

(3) A program approved by the Board.

(g) (1) The Board shall require as part of its examination or licensing procedures that an applicant for a license to practice podiatry demonstrate an oral competency in the English language.

(2) Graduation from a recognized English-speaking undergraduate school after at least 3 years of enrollment, or from a recognized English-speaking professional school is acceptable as proof of proficiency in the oral communication of the English language under this section.

(3) By regulation, the Board shall develop a procedure for testing individuals who because of their speech impairment are unable to complete satisfactorily a Board approved standardized test of oral competency.

(4) If any disciplinary charges or action that involves a problem with the oral communication of the English language are brought against a licensee under this title, the Board shall require the licensee to take and pass a Board approved standardized test of oral competency.

(h) The applicant shall submit to a criminal history records check in accordance with § 16-302.1 of this subtitle.

16-304.

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

(b) The Board shall [give] **ADMINISTER** examinations **ON THE BOARD'S**

STATUTE AND REGULATIONS to applicants at least twice a year[, at the times and places that the Board determines].

(c) The Board shall notify each qualified applicant of the [time and place] **REQUIREMENTS** of **THE** examination.

(d) For examinations [given] **ADMINISTERED** under **SUBSECTION (B) OF** this [subtitle] **SECTION**, the Board shall:

(1) Provide the books and forms necessary to conduct the examinations;

(2) Conduct the examinations in writing[, but may use supplementary oral and clinical examinations]; and

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, determine the scope, form, and passing score for the examinations.

(e) [An examination given under this subtitle may include only subjects normally taught at an accredited school or college of podiatry or chiropody.

(f) The Board shall[:

(1) Act] **ACT** on each examination promptly[; and

(2) Record the results of each examination in the Board's minutes].

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2018.