

HOUSE BILL 378

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4r1323
CF SB 330

By: **Delegate Guzzone**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Dietetic Practice – Dietician–Nutritionists – Licensure**
3 **Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the educational requirements that an individual must meet to
5 be licensed as a dietician–nutritionist; and generally relating to
6 dietician–nutritionists.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Health Occupations
9 Section 5–101(a) and (b)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Health Occupations
14 Section 5–101(c), 5–302, and 5–305
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Health Occupations**

20 5–101.

21 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

22 (b) “Board” means the State Board of Dietetic Practice.

23 (c) “Certified nutrition specialist” means an individual certified by the

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 [Certification] Board for **CERTIFICATION OF** Nutrition Specialists, the accrediting body
2 of the American [College of] Nutrition **ASSOCIATION**.

3 5–302.

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

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

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

8 (d) The applicant for licensure as a dietitian–nutritionist shall:

9 (1) (i) 1. Have satisfactorily completed academic requirements for
10 the field of dietetics as approved by the Board; and

11 2. Have received a [baccalaureate] **MASTER’S** degree from a
12 college or university accredited by an educational accrediting association recognized by the
13 Council on Higher Education and Accreditation; or

14 (ii) Have received a master’s or doctoral degree from a college or
15 university accredited by an educational accrediting association recognized by the Council
16 on Higher Education and Accreditation in nutritional sciences (with emphasis in human
17 nutrition), food and nutrition, dietetics, human nutrition, community nutrition, public
18 health nutrition, or equivalent training approved by the Board;

19 (2) Have satisfactorily completed a program of supervised clinical
20 experience approved by the Board; and

21 (3) (i) Submit to the Board proof of certification by the [Certification]
22 Board for [Nutritional] **CERTIFICATION OF NUTRITION** Specialists; or

23 (ii) Submit to the Board proof of registration with the Commission
24 on Dietetic Registration of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

25 (e) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, the applicant must pass an
26 examination approved by the Board under this subtitle.

27 (f) The applicant shall meet any other qualifications or requirements that the
28 Board establishes for license applicants.

29 5–305.

30 (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Board may waive an examination
31 requirement of this title for an individual who:

- 1 (1) Is licensed to practice dietetics in another state or country;
- 2 (2) Is registered to practice dietetics by the Commission on Dietetic
3 Registration of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; or
- 4 (3) Is certified by the [Certification] Board for **CERTIFICATION OF**
5 Nutrition Specialists.
- 6 (b) The Board may grant a waiver under this section only if the applicant:
- 7 (1) Pays the application fee set by the Board under § 5–206 of this title; and
- 8 (2) Provides adequate evidence that the applicant:
- 9 (i) Meets the qualifications otherwise required by this subtitle; and
- 10 (ii) 1. Became licensed in the other state or country after
11 passing, in that state or country, an examination that the Board determines to be
12 comparable to the examination for which the applicant is seeking the waiver;
- 13 2. Became registered by the Commission on Dietetic
14 Registration of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics after meeting the examination
15 waiver requirements of that Commission or its predecessor; or
- 16 3. Became certified by the [Certification] Board for
17 **CERTIFICATION OF** Nutrition Specialists after meeting the examination waiver
18 requirements of that Certification Board or its predecessor.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
20 1, 2024.