

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 330
Finance

(Senator Beidle)

State Board of Dietetic Practice - Dietician-Nutritionists - Licensure Requirements

This bill alters the requirements for licensure as a dietician-nutritionist from the State Board of Dietetic Practice. To qualify, an individual must receive a master’s degree, as specified. The bill also updates the name of the Certification Board for Nutritional Specialists to be the Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists, and the name of the American College of Nutrition to be the American Nutrition Association. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is technical in nature and does not directly affect government finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Board of Dietetic Practice, established in 1985, fulfills its mission by issuing dietitian-nutritionist licenses, setting standards for the practice of dietetics, developing and enforcing regulations, resolving complaints, and educating the public. The board also enforces title protection of “licensed dietitian-nutritionist” to those individuals licensed by the board. The board oversees approximately 2,917 licensed dietitian-nutritionists.

Generally, to qualify for a license as a dietician-nutritionist, an applicant must be at least 18 years old, of good moral character, meet certain educational requirements (detailed below), pass an examination approved by the board, and meet any other qualifications or requirements established by the board.

An individual may satisfy the educational requirements for licensure by *either* (1) satisfactorily completing academic requirements for the field of dietetics as approved by the board and receiving a baccalaureate degree from a college or university accredited by an educational accrediting association recognized by the Council on Higher Education and Accreditation (CHEA) or (2) receiving a master's or doctoral degree from a college or university accredited by an education accreditation association recognized by CHEA in nutritional sciences (with emphasis in human nutrition), food and nutrition, dietetics, human nutrition, community nutrition, public health nutrition, or equivalent training approved by the board.

All applicants must also have satisfactorily completed a board-approved program of supervised clinical experience and submit proof of certification by the Certification Board for Nutrition Specialists (renamed under the bill) or of registration with the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Additional Comments: The board advises that the bill conforms statute to reflect the National Association for Dietetics requirement of a master's degree to sit for the national examination for dietitians. Further, the board advises that the bill conforms statute to reflect recent name changes of both the Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists and the American Nutrition Association.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 378 (Delegate Guzzone) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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