

# HOUSE BILL 654

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By: **Delegate Hubbard**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2009

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – License to Practice Psychology – Doctoral Degree in**  
3 **Psychology**

4 FOR the purpose of clarifying certain qualifications of applicants for a license to  
5 practice psychology; altering the definition of a certain term; and generally  
6 relating to the definition of “doctoral degree in psychology” and applicants for a  
7 license to practice psychology in the State.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Health Occupations  
10 Section 18–101(c) and 18–302  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Health Occupations**

16 18–101.

17 (c) (1) “Doctoral degree in psychology” means:

18 (i) A degree received from a program that at the time the  
19 degree was awarded:

20 1. Is accredited by the American Psychological  
21 Association **OR THE CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**; or

22 2. Is listed in the designated doctoral programs in  
23 psychology published by[:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 A. The Association of State and Provincial Psychology  
2 Boards; and

3 B. The] **THE** Council for the National Register of Health  
4 Service Providers in Psychology; or

5 (ii) A doctoral degree in psychology that **THE COUNCIL FOR**  
6 **THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
7 **DETERMINES** meets [the] **ITS** criteria for a doctoral degree in psychology [published  
8 in 1977 by the Council], **IF THE DEGREE WAS RECEIVED FROM A DOCTORAL**  
9 **PROGRAM IN PSYCHOLOGY THAT:**

10 1. **IS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES AND**  
11 **CANADA;**

12 2. **IS CURRENTLY ACCREDITED OR DESIGNATED IN**  
13 **ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION, BUT WAS NOT**  
14 **ACCREDITED OR DESIGNATED AT THE TIME THE DEGREE WAS AWARDED;**

15 3. **WAS COMPLETED PRIOR TO 1981 FOR UNITED**  
16 **STATES PROGRAMS;**

17 4. **WAS COMPLETED PRIOR TO 1988 FOR CANADIAN**  
18 **PROGRAMS; OR**

19 5. **IS NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE.**

20 (2) (i) A determination by the Council under paragraph (1)(ii) of  
21 this subsection that a doctoral degree in psychology meets its criteria shall be  
22 considered by the Board as prima facie evidence that the degree meets those criteria.

23 (ii) In determining whether the degree in psychology meets the  
24 criteria described in paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection and subparagraph (i) of this  
25 paragraph, the Board may consider the completion of postdoctoral course work in  
26 psychology, not to exceed 9 semester hours.

27 18–302.

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

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

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

1 (d) The applicant shall have a doctoral degree in psychology **AS DEFINED IN**  
2 **§ 18-101(C) OF THIS TITLE.**

3 (e) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, the applicant shall pass an  
4 examination given by the Board under this subtitle.

5 (f) The applicant shall have at least 2 years of professional supervised  
6 experience in psychology that is approved by the Board **IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
7 **REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD.** [At least 1 year of this required  
8 experience shall have occurred after the doctoral degree is awarded.]

9 (g) (1) Except as provided in this subsection, an applicant shall reside or  
10 practice, or intend to reside or practice, in this State.

11 (2) The Board may issue a license to an applicant who is neither a  
12 resident of this State nor practicing in this State if the applicant shows that issuing  
13 the license would be in the interest of the citizens or government of this State.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15 October 1, 2009.