

## CHAPTER 329

(Senate Bill 951)

AN ACT concerning

### **Health Occupations – License to Practice Psychology – Doctoral Degree in Psychology**

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

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

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

#### **Article – Health Occupations**

18–101.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18-302.

(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 have a doctoral degree in psychology **AS DEFINED IN § 18-101(C) OF THIS TITLE.**

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

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

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

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

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

**Approved by the Governor, May 7, 2009.**