

HOUSE BILL 911

J2

2lr2741

By: **Delegate Bagnall**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Psychologists – Doctoral Degrees**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “doctoral degree in psychology” to include a
4 certain postdoctoral respecialization certificate for purposes of licensure by the State
5 Board of Psychologists; and generally relating to psychologists and doctoral degrees.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Health Occupations
8 Section 18–101(c)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2021 Replacement Volume)

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

13 **Article – Health Occupations**

14 18–101.

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

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

18 1. Is accredited by the American Psychological Association or
19 the Canadian Psychological Association; or

20 2. Is listed in the designated doctoral programs in psychology
21 published by the Council for the National Register of Health Service Providers in
22 Psychology; [or]

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(II) A POSTDOCTORAL RESPECIALIZATION CERTIFICATE FROM**
2 **A PROGRAM THAT AT THE TIME THE CERTIFICATE WAS AWARDED WAS OFFERED**
3 **THROUGH A DEGREE PROGRAM THAT IS ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN**
4 **PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OR THE CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION;**
5 **OR**

6 **[(ii) (III)** A doctoral degree in psychology that the Council for the
7 National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology determines meets its criteria
8 for a doctoral degree in psychology, if the degree was received from a doctoral program in
9 psychology that:

10 1. Is located outside the United States and Canada;

11 2. Is currently accredited or designated in accordance with
12 item (i) of this paragraph, but was not accredited or designated at the time the degree was
13 awarded;

14 3. Was completed prior to 1981 for United States programs;

15 4. Was completed prior to 1988 for Canadian programs; or

16 5. Is no longer in existence.

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

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

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2022.