By: Delegate Bagnall, Delegates Bagnall, Belcastro, Bhandari, Carr, Chisholm, Cullison, Hill, Johnson, Kaiser, Kelly, Kerr, Kipke, Landis, R. Lewis, Morgan, Reilly, Rosenberg, Saab, Sample–Hughes, Szeliga, and K. Young

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 10, 2022

CHAPTER ______

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Health Occupations – Psychologists – Doctoral Degrees Licensure Qualifications

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “doctoral degree in psychology” to include a certain postdoctoral respecialization certificate for purposes of licensure the qualifications an individual must have to be licensed as a psychologist by the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists; and generally relating to the licensure of psychologists and doctoral degrees.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Health Occupations
10 Section 18–101(c) and 18–302(f)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2021 Replacement Volume)

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

15 Article – Health Occupations

16 18–101.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.
Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.
A degree received from a program that at the time the degree was awarded:

- Is accredited by the American Psychological Association or the Canadian Psychological Association; or

- Is listed in the designated doctoral programs in psychology published by the Council for the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology; [or]

**II**

*POSTDOCTORAL RESPECIALIZATION CERTIFICATE FROM A PROGRAM THAT AT THE TIME THE CERTIFICATE WAS AWARDED WAS OFFERED THROUGH A DEGREE PROGRAM THAT IS ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION* A degree received from a doctoral program in psychology from a school or university that, at the time the degree was awarded, had a regional accreditation recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or the Canadian Psychological Association; or

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

- Is located outside the United States and Canada;

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

- Was completed prior to 1981 for United States programs;

- Was completed prior to 1988 for Canadian programs; or

- Is no longer in existence.

(2) (i) A determination by the Council under paragraph [(1)(ii)] (1)(III) 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)] (1)(III) 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.
In addition to the other requirements of this section, to qualify to be a licensed psychologist, an applicant MUST HAVE:

(1) A doctoral degree in psychology AS DEFINED IN § 18–101(C)(1)(I) OR (III) OF THIS TITLE; and

(2) AT least 2 years of professional, supervised experience in psychology that is approved by the Board in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board; OR

A DOCTORAL DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY AS DEFINED IN § 18–101(C)(1)(II) OF THIS TITLE;

RECEIVED A POSTDOCTORAL RESPECIALIZATION CERTIFICATE FROM A DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY THAT, AT THE TIME THE CERTIFICATE WAS ISSUED, HAD A DEGREE PROGRAM THAT WAS ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OR THE CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION;

COMPLETED A MINIMUM OF 1,500 HOURS OF POSTCERTIFICATION ADVANCED TRAINING HOURS OR PRECERTIFICATION HOURS OF SERVICE AS A REGISTERED PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD; AND

AT LEAST 2 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL, SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY THAT IS APPROVED BY THE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD.

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