SENATE BILL 120

By: Senator Lam (By Request)
Requested: October 20, 2021
Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: February 13, 2022

CHAPTER _____

AN ACT concerning

Acupuncture Licensure Requirements

FOR the purpose of altering the education requirements that an applicant for licensure by
the State Acupuncture Board must achieve to be issued a license; and generally
relating to the State Acupuncture Board.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 1A–302
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Health Occupations

1A–302.

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

(b) The application shall:

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.
(1) Be of good moral character;

(2) Be at least 18 years old;

(3) Demonstrate competence in performing acupuncture by meeting one of the following standards for education or training:

(i) If the applicant is issued a license on or before May 31, 2026:

1. Graduation from at least a master’s level program or its equivalent in acupuncture that is:

   A. Approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission;

   B. Accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; or

   C. Found by the Board to be equivalent to a course approved or accredited under item (i) of this item; or

(ii) 1. [Achievement] Except as provided in item 2 of this item, achievement of a:

   [1.] A. Diplomate in acupuncture from the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; [or] AND

   [2.] B. Passing score on an examination that is determined by the Board to be equivalent to the examination given by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; OR

2. If the applicant is issued a license on or before May 31, 2026, achievement of a:

   A. Diplomate in acupuncture from the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; OR

   B. Passing score on an examination that is determined by the Board to be equivalent to the examination given by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine;

(II) If the applicant is issued a license on or after June 1, 2026:
1. Graduation from at least a master’s level program or its equivalent in acupuncture that is:

   A. Approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission;

   B. Accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; or

   C. Found by the Board to be equivalent to a course approved or accredited under item A or B of this item; and

2. Achievement of a passing score on an examination given by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine or determined by the Board to be equivalent to the examination given by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine;

   (4) Demonstrate the ability to communicate in the English language; and

   (5) Meet any other qualifications that the Board establishes in regulations.

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.