

SENATE BILL 349

J2

3lr1903
CF HB 19

By: **Senator M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2023

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Examiners of Psychologists – License and Registration Issuance**
3 **and Renewals – Electronic Means**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to issue
5 electronic licenses and certificates; repealing the requirement that the Board include
6 certain information on each license and registration; altering the circumstances
7 under which the Board is required to send renewal notices by first-class mail; and
8 generally relating to the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Health Occupations
11 Section 18–306 and 18–309
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Health Occupations**

17 18–306.

18 (a) The Board shall issue [a] AN ELECTRONIC license or registration to any
19 applicant who meets the requirements of this title.

20 [(b) The Board shall include on each license or registration that the Board issues:

21 (1) The full name of the licensee or registrant;

22 (2) The dates of issuance and expiration;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) A serial number:

2 (4) The signatures of the chairman and the vice chairman of the Board; and

3 (5) The seal of the Board.]

4 [(c)] (B) (1) On receipt of the criminal history record information of an
5 applicant for licensure or registration forwarded to the Board in accordance with § 18–302.1
6 of this subtitle, in determining whether to grant a license or registration, the Board shall
7 consider:

8 (i) The age at which the crime was committed;

9 (ii) The circumstances surrounding the crime;

10 (iii) The length of time that has passed since the crime;

11 (iv) Subsequent work history;

12 (v) Employment and character references; and

13 (vi) Other evidence that demonstrates whether the applicant poses a
14 threat to the public health or safety.

15 (2) The Board may not issue a license or registration if the criminal history
16 record information required under § 18–302.1 of this subtitle has not been received.

17 18–309.

18 (a) (1) A license or registration expires on the date set by the Board, unless it
19 is renewed for an additional term as provided in this section.

20 (2) A license or registration may not be renewed for a term longer than 2
21 years.

22 (b) (1) (i) At least 90 days before a license expires, the Board shall send a
23 renewal notice to the licensee[:

24 1. By first–class mail to the last known address of the
25 licensee; or

26 2. If requested by the licensee,] by electronic means to the
27 last known electronic mail address of the licensee.

28 (ii) If a renewal notice sent by electronic means [under

1 subparagraph (i)2 of this paragraph] is returned to the Board as undeliverable, **OR ON**
2 **SPECIFIC REQUEST BY THE LICENSEE**, the Board shall send a renewal notice to the
3 licensee by first-class mail to the last known address of the licensee.

4 (2) (I) At least 90 days before a registration expires, the Board shall
5 send a renewal notice to the registrant[:

6 (i) By first-class mail to the last known address of the registrant; or

7 (ii) By] **BY** electronic means to the last known electronic mail
8 address of the registrant.

9 (II) **IF A RENEWAL NOTICE SENT BY ELECTRONIC MEANS IS**
10 **RETURNED TO THE BOARD AS UNDELIVERABLE, OR ON SPECIFIC REQUEST BY THE**
11 **REGISTRANT, THE BOARD SHALL SEND A RENEWAL NOTICE TO THE REGISTRANT BY**
12 **FIRST-CLASS MAIL TO THE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF THE REGISTRANT.**

13 (c) The renewal notice sent under subsection (b) of this section shall state:

14 (1) The date on which the current license or registration expires;

15 (2) The date by which the renewal application must be received by the
16 Board for the renewal to be issued and mailed before the license or registration expires;
17 and

18 (3) The amount of the renewal fee.

19 (d) Each licensee or registrant shall notify the Board in writing of any change in
20 the licensee's or registrant's address or electronic mail address within 30 days after the
21 change occurs.

22 (e) Before the license or registration expires, the licensee or registrant
23 periodically may renew it for an additional 2-year term, if the licensee or registrant:

24 (1) Otherwise is entitled to be licensed or registered;

25 (2) Pays to the Board a renewal fee set by the Board; and

26 (3) Submits to the Board:

27 (i) A renewal application on the form that the Board requires; and

28 (ii) Satisfactory evidence of compliance with any continuing
29 education requirements set under this section for license or registration renewal.

30 (f) (1) The Board may establish continuing education requirements as a

1 condition to the renewal of licenses or registrations under this section.

2 (2) The requirements established under this subsection shall be set by the
3 Board as to the amount and type of study required.

4 (g) The Board shall renew the license or registration of each licensee or registrant
5 who meets the requirements of this section.

6 (h) (1) (i) Beginning March 2019, the Board shall begin a process requiring
7 criminal history records checks in accordance with § 18–302.1 of this subtitle on:

8 1. Selected annual renewal applicants as determined by
9 regulations adopted by the Board; and

10 2. Each former licensee or registrant who files for
11 reinstatement under § 18–310 of this subtitle after failing to renew the license or
12 registration for a period of 1 year or more.

13 (ii) An additional criminal history records check shall be performed:

14 1. 6 years after a renewal applicant submitted to a criminal
15 history records check under § 18–302(e) of this subtitle; and

16 2. Every 6 years after a renewal applicant was required to
17 submit to a criminal history records check under subparagraph (i)1 of this paragraph.

18 (2) On receipt of the criminal history record information of a licensee
19 forwarded to the Board in accordance with § 18–302.1 of this subtitle, in determining
20 whether to renew a license or registration, the Board shall consider:

21 (i) The age at which the crime was committed;

22 (ii) The circumstances surrounding the crime;

23 (iii) The length of time that has passed since the crime;

24 (iv) Subsequent work history;

25 (v) Employment and character references; and

26 (vi) Other evidence that demonstrates whether the licensee poses a
27 threat to the public health or safety.

28 (3) The Board may not renew a license or registration if the criminal
29 history record information required under § 18–302.1 of this subtitle has not been received.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect

1 October 1, 2023.