

## Chapter 55

**(House Bill 26)**

AN ACT concerning

**Health Occupations – Psychologists – Licensure Qualification**

FOR the purpose of altering 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.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Health Occupations  
Section 18–101(a)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Health Occupations  
Section 18–101(c) and 18–302(f)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 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.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(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 the Council for the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology; [or]

**(II) 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)] (III)** A doctoral degree in psychology that the Council for the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology determines meets its criteria for a doctoral degree in psychology, 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 item (i) of this paragraph, 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)] (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.

18–302.

(f) In addition to the other requirements of this section, to qualify to be a licensed psychologist, an applicant **[shall] MUST HAVE:**

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

**[(2)] (II) [Have at] 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**

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

(II) 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; ASSOCIATION AND THAT INCLUDED A MINIMUM OF 1,750 HOURS IN A SUPERVISED INTERNSHIP IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD; AND

(III) 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~~

~~(IV) 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, 2023.

Approved by the Governor, April 11, 2023.