

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 26

(Delegate Bagnall, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Health Occupations - Psychologists - Licensure Qualification

This bill establishes a second pathway for licensure as a psychologist from the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. To qualify, an individual must have (1) a doctoral degree 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 (CHEA) or the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA); (2) received a postdoctoral respecialization certificate from a department of psychology that, at the time the certificate was issued, had a degree program accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or CPA and included a minimum of 1,750 hours in a supervised internship in accordance with board regulations; and (3) completed at least 1,500 hours of training, as specified.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Altering licensure criteria for psychologists does not affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: In general, to qualify for a license as a psychologist, an applicant must be at least age 18, of good moral character, and (with limited exception) plan to reside or practice in Maryland. An applicant for a psychology license must also successfully pass a national examination in the practice of psychology and the State

jurisprudence examination. The bill retains these requirements for both pathways to become a licensed psychologist.

Under current law, the pathway for licensure requires that an applicant have at least two years of professional, supervised experience in psychology (as specified) and a doctoral degree in psychology, including either (1) a degree received from a program that, at the time the degree was awarded, is accredited by APA or CPA 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 (2) 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 meets specified criteria. This pathway for licensure remains unchanged by the bill.

Under the bill, a second pathway for licensure is established requiring (1) 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 CHEA or CPA; (2) 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 APA or CPA and included a minimum of 1,750 hours in a supervised internship in accordance with board regulations; and (3) completion of at least 1,500 hours of post certification advanced training hours or precertification hours of services as a registered psychology associate in accordance with board regulations.

Additional Comments: A postdoctoral respecialization certificate is obtained by doctoral-level psychologists (individuals with doctorates in a nonclinical field of psychology) who seek to become licensed clinical psychologists.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 911 of 2022.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2023
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