

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 349

(Senator M. Washington)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

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**State Board of Examiners of Psychologists - License and Registration Issuance  
and Renewals - Electronic Means**

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This bill requires the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to issue *electronic* (as opposed to paper) licenses or registrations to any applicant who meets the existing statutory requirements. The board must, on the request of an applicant, print a paper copy of the verification of licensure or registration and send it by first-class mail to the address on the application for the license or registration. The bill also specifies that a renewal notice will only be sent by electronic means (rather than first-class mail) unless (1) a renewal notice sent by electronic means is returned as undeliverable or (2) a licensee or registrant specifically requests that a renewal notice be sent by mail. The bill also repeals the requirement that the board include specific information on each license and registration issued.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The change is procedural in nature and does not materially affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The State Board of Examiners of Psychologists licenses psychologists and registers psychology associates. 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. To qualify as a registered psychology associate, an applicant must meet specified educational requirements (a minimum of a master's degree in specified fields of study), successfully pass the State law examination, and submit to a criminal history records check.

Each license or registration issued by the board must include (1) the full name of the licensee or registrant; (2) the dates of issuance and expiration; (3) a serial number; (4) the signatures of the chairman and vice chairman of the board; and (5) the seal of the board.

Licenses and registrations expire on the date set by the board but may be valid for up to two years. At least 90 days before a license or registration expires, the board must send a renewal notice to a licensee/registrant either by first-class mail to the last known address of the licensee/registrant or, if requested by the licensee/registrant, by electronic means to the last known electronic mail address of the licensee/registrant. A renewal notice must include the expiration date of the license/registration, the date by which a renewal application must be received by the board in order for a renewal to be sent before the current license/registration expires, and the amount of any renewal fee.

Each licensee or registrant must notify the board in writing of any changes to mailing address or electronic mailing address within 90 days of when the change occurs.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 19 (Delegate Woods, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 2, 2023  
rh/jc Third Reader - March 16, 2023  
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