

Chapter 49

(Senate Bill 222)

AN ACT concerning

State Board of Environmental Health Specialists – Quorum, Examination, and Apprenticeships

FOR the purpose of clarifying that a quorum of the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists consists of a majority of appointed members; altering the circumstances under which an applicant for licensure is qualified to take the examination by adding completion of an apprenticeship approved by the Board as an alternative to obtaining experience in an environmental health specialist–in–training program; authorizing the Board to approve an examination provider to administer the examination, rather than administering the examination itself; and generally relating to the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 21–101(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Health Occupations
Section 21–101(a–1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 21–204(a), 21–301(b)(1), 21–304, and 21–305
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

Article – Health Occupations

21–101.

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

(A-1) “APPRENTICESHIP” MEANS A PROGRAM OF TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST THAT IS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A BOARD-APPROVED BACCALAUREATE DEGREE FROM AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

21-204.

(a) A majority of the **APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE** Board is a quorum **TO DO BUSINESS.**

21-301.

(b) This section does not apply to:

(1) An environmental health specialist-in-training **PARTICIPATING IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST-IN-TRAINING PROGRAM OR AN INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATING IN AN APPRENTICESHIP** as provided for under § 21-305 of this subtitle;

21-304.

(a) An applicant who otherwise qualifies for licensure is entitled to be examined as provided in this section.

(b) An applicant qualifies to take the examination if the applicant:

(1) (i) Has graduated from an accredited college or university with a baccalaureate degree that includes:

1. A minimum of 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent quarter credit hours of chemical, physical, biological, and environmental sciences acceptable to the Board;

2. A course in mathematics; and

3. Laboratory coursework as required in regulations adopted by the Board; and

(ii) Has [obtained]:

1. **OBTAINED** 12 months of experience in an environmental health specialist-in-training program approved by the Board; or

2. **COMPLETED AN APPRENTICESHIP APPROVED BY THE BOARD; OR**

(2) Has graduated from an accredited college or university with a master's degree in public or environmental health science that includes:

(i) A minimum of 30 semester credit hours or 45 quarter credit hours of chemical, physical, biological, or environmental sciences acceptable to the Board and obtained at the baccalaureate or master's level;

(ii) A course in mathematics;

(iii) 3 months of internship approved by the Board if not previously completed; and

(iv) Laboratory coursework as required in regulations adopted by the Board.

(c) (1) This subsection does not alter the requirement that an applicant demonstrate completion of a baccalaureate or master's degree to qualify for examination.

(2) The Board may waive any of the specific course requirements for an applicant to qualify for examination in subsection (b) of this section if the Board determines that an applicant:

(i) Has obtained an equivalent number of credit hours in a course relevant to practice as an environmental health specialist; or

(ii) Has work experience that is an acceptable substitute for a course required in subsection (b) of this section.

(d) The examination required by the Board shall include a written examination in the physical, biological, and environmental sciences that relates to practices and principles of environmental health.

(e) The Board shall **[administer]:**

(1) ADMINISTER examinations to applicants at least once a year, at the times and places that the Board determines; **OR**

(2) APPROVE AN EXAMINATION PROVIDER TO ADMINISTER THE EXAMINATION TO APPLICANTS.

[(f)] The Board shall notify each qualified applicant of the time and place of examination.]

[(g)] (F) [The] IF THE BOARD ADMINISTERS THE EXAMINATION, THE Board shall:

(1) NOTIFY EACH QUALIFIED APPLICANT OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE EXAMINATION;

~~[(1)]~~ **(2)** Determine the subjects, scope, form, and passing score for examinations; and

~~[(2)]~~ **(3)** Use professional examinations prepared by recognized examination agencies.

(G) IF A BOARD-APPROVED EXAMINATION PROVIDER ADMINISTERS THE EXAMINATION, THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY EACH QUALIFIED APPLICANT OF THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR THE EXAMINATION.

(h) An applicant who fails an examination may retake the examination as provided in the rules and regulations adopted by the Board.

(i) The Board may waive any examination requirement under this section if the Board recognizes the applicant as being outstanding in the field of environmental health.

21-305.

The Board shall adopt regulations that include:

(1) (i) The establishment of an environmental health specialist-in-training program for applicants to obtain the necessary experience to qualify to take the examination; and

(ii) A condition that a person may not participate in an environmental health specialist-in-training program for more than 3 years, unless granted an extension by the Board; [and]

(2) (i) The establishment of a seasonal environmental health specialist-in-training program for individuals to be temporarily employed as environmental health specialists; and

(ii) A condition that an individual may not participate in a seasonal environmental health specialist-in-training program for more than 6 months within a consecutive 12-month period; AND

(3) (I) THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF AN APPRENTICESHIP; AND

(II) THE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM DURATION OF AN APPRENTICESHIP.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, April 9, 2024.