

HOUSE BILL 664

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5lr2626

By: **Delegate Terrasa**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 27, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives – Disciplinary Actions**

3 FOR the purpose of clarifying the actions that the State Board of Nursing may take if an
4 applicant for a license to practice direct-entry midwifery or a licensed direct-entry
5 midwife violates a ground for discipline; and generally relating to licensed
6 direct-entry midwives.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Health Occupations
9 Section 8-6C-20(a)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Health Occupations**

15 8-6C-20.

16 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 8-317 of this title, the Board may deny
17 a license **OR GRANT A LICENSE, INCLUDING A LICENSE SUBJECT TO A REPRIMAND,**
18 **PROBATION, OR SUSPENSION,** to [an] ANY applicant, reprimand [a] ANY licensee, place
19 [a] ANY licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke [a] **THE** license **OF A LICENSEE** if the
20 applicant or licensee:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



- 1 (1) Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a license for
2 the applicant or for another;
- 3 (2) Fraudulently or deceptively uses a license;
- 4 (3) Is disciplined by a licensing, military, or disciplinary authority in the
5 State or in any other state or country or is convicted or disciplined by a court in the State
6 or in any other state or country for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action
7 under the Board's disciplinary statutes;
- 8 (4) Is convicted of or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or to a
9 crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending
10 to have the conviction or plea set aside;
- 11 (5) Willfully and knowingly:
- 12 (i) Files a false report or record of an individual under the licensee's
13 care;
- 14 (ii) Gives any false or misleading information about a material
15 matter in an employment application;
- 16 (iii) Fails to file or record any health record that is required by law;
- 17 (iv) Obstructs the filing or recording of any health record as required
18 by law; or
- 19 (v) Induces another person to fail to file or record any health record
20 as required by law;
- 21 (6) Knowingly does any act that has been determined by the Board, in its
22 regulations, to exceed the scope of practice authorized to the individual under this subtitle;
- 23 (7) Provides professional services while:
- 24 (i) Under the influence of alcohol; or
- 25 (ii) Using any narcotic or controlled dangerous substance, as defined
26 in § 5-101 of the Criminal Law Article, or other drug that is in excess of therapeutic
27 amounts or without valid medical indication;
- 28 (8) Does an act that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional
29 standards in the practice of direct-entry midwifery;
- 30 (9) Is grossly negligent in the practice of direct-entry midwifery;

- 1 (10) Has violated any provision of this title;
- 2 (11) Submits a false statement to collect a fee;
- 3 (12) Is physically or mentally incompetent;
- 4 (13) Knowingly fails to report suspected child abuse in violation of § 5-704
5 of the Family Law Article;
- 6 (14) Except in an emergency life-threatening situation where it is not
7 feasible or practicable, fails to comply with the Centers for Disease Control and
8 Prevention's guidelines on universal precautions;
- 9 (15) Is in independent practice and fails to display the notice required under
10 § 8-6C-23 of this subtitle;
- 11 (16) Is habitually intoxicated;
- 12 (17) Is addicted to, or habitually abuses, any narcotic or controlled
13 dangerous substance as defined in § 5-101 of the Criminal Law Article;
- 14 (18) Fails to cooperate with a lawful investigation conducted by the Board;
- 15 (19) Is expelled from the rehabilitation program established pursuant to §
16 8-208 of this title for failure to comply with the conditions of the program;
- 17 (20) Engages in conduct that violates the professional code of ethics;
- 18 (21) Is professionally incompetent;
- 19 (22) Practices direct-entry midwifery without a license, before obtaining or
20 renewing a license, including any period when the license has lapsed;
- 21 (23) After failing to renew a license or after a license has lapsed, commits
22 any act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section;
- 23 (24) Violates regulations adopted by the Board or an order from the Board;
- 24 (25) Performs an act that is beyond the licensee's knowledge and skills;
- 25 (26) Fails to submit to a criminal history records check in accordance with §
26 8-303 of this title;
- 27 (27) When acting in a supervisory position, directs another licensed
28 direct-entry midwife to perform an act that is beyond the licensed direct-entry midwife's
29 knowledge and skills; or

1 (28) Fails to file a report required under this subtitle.

2 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
3 October 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.