

Chapter 275

(House Bill 342)

AN ACT concerning

**Forestry Licenses – Applicant Qualifications – Alterations**

FOR the purpose of requiring that an institution from which an applicant for a forestry license graduates on completion of a certain curriculum has certain approval and accreditation; authorizing an applicant to qualify for a forestry license if the State Board of Foresters determines the applicant’s education is substantially equivalent to certain requirements; ~~repealing a certain experience requirement for applicants for a forestry license;~~ and generally relating to requirements for forestry licenses.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
Section 7–304  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

**Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

7–304.

(a) To qualify for a license, an applicant shall be an individual who meets the requirements of this section.

(b) ~~(1) An~~ **(2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN** applicant shall have graduated on completion of a 4–year curriculum in forestry from a college or university that is:

- ~~(1)~~ **(I)** approved by the Board [or]; AND
- ~~(2)~~ **(II)** accredited by:
  - ~~(1)~~ the Society of American Foresters; ~~OR~~
  - ~~(II)~~ ~~AN EQUIVALENT ACCREDITING ENTITY.~~

~~(c) (2) The applicant shall have at least 2 years of experience in forestry that indicates to the Board that the applicant is competent to practice forestry.~~ **AN APPLICANT MAY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION SUBSECTION IF THE BOARD**

**DETERMINES THAT THE APPLICANT'S EDUCATION, INCLUDING A COMPARABLE GRADUATE DEGREE OR INTERNATIONAL DEGREE, IS SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER ~~SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION~~ PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

*(c) The applicant shall have at least 2 years of experience in forestry that indicates to the Board that the applicant is competent to practice forestry.*

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

**Approved by the Governor, April 28, 2026.**