

SB0645/193023/1

BY: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 645
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 7, after “requirements;” insert “altering the documents an applicant must submit to the Board; requiring the Board to grant a waiver of certain requirements under certain circumstances;”; after line 8, insert:

“BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - State Government

Section 9-2401(a) and (o)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)”;

in line 11, after “Section” insert “9-2407,”; in the same line, strike “and”; and in the same line, after “9-2415” insert “, 9-2419, and 9-2420”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 22, insert:

9-2401.

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

(o) “Office” means the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

9-2407.

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On or before January 1, 2002, and annually thereafter, the Director shall submit to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of this article, to the members of the General Assembly, a report on:

- (1) the activities of the Office;
- (2) the status of programs and services facilitated by the Office;
- (3) the activities of the Board, including:

(i) the number of sign language interpreters licensed by the Board; [and]

(II) THE NUMBER OF LICENSED SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS IN EACH COUNTY:

1. DETERMINED BY THE LICENSEE'S HOME ADDRESS;
OR

2. THE LICENSEE'S COUNTY OR REGION OF PLANNED EMPLOYMENT, IF KNOWN; AND

[(ii)] (III) the number of complaints received by the Board, differentiated by the type of complaint;

(4) statistics on compliance with State and federal laws related to deaf and hard of hearing individuals; and

(5) recommendations for improved delivery of services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals.”

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On page 2, in line 17, after “OFFICIO” insert “NONVOTING”; in line 19, after “OFFICIO” insert “NONVOTING”; and in line 28, after “OFFICIO” insert “NONVOTING”.

On page 3, in line 27, after the first “the” insert “VOTING”.

On page 4, in line 8, strike “**DECEMBER 31, 2026**” and substitute “**JULY 1, 2027**”; after line 21, insert:

“(3) EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS;”;

and in lines 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, and 28, strike “(3)”, “(4)”, “(5)”, “(6)”, “(7)”, and “(8)”, respectively, and substitute “(4)”, “(5)”, “(6)”, “(7)”, “(8)”, and “(9)”, respectively.

On page 5, in line 25, after “SCHOOLS” insert “SUPERINTENDENTS”; in the same line, strike “AND”; after line 25, insert:

“(IX) THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION; AND”;

in line 26, strike “(IX)” and substitute “(X)”; and after line 26, insert:

“(3) THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE STAFF TO ASSIST THE BOARD IN COMPLETION OF THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.”

On page 6, in line 5, after “(3)” insert “(I)”; in the same line, strike “determine” and substitute “INDICATE”; after line 7, insert:

“(II) REQUIRE PUBLIC ENTITIES TO PROVIDE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS TO SUPPORT THE PREFERENCES INDICATED BY THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS ITEM, TO THE

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**EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH 28 C.F.R. § 35.160 AND THE
FEDERAL AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; AND**”;

after line 9, insert:

“9-2419.

An applicant shall submit to the Board:

- (1) a completed application on the form provided by the Board;
- (2) payment of a nonrefundable application fee set by the Board; AND
- (3) (I) proof of a valid nationally or regionally recognized certification or other certification approved by the Board; [and] OR
[(4)] (II) documentation of satisfactory completion of any other qualifications established by the Board.

9-2420.

(a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Board may waive any requirement of this part for an applicant who is licensed to provide sign language interpretation services in another state.

(b) The Board [may] SHALL grant a waiver under this section only if the applicant:

- (1) pays to the Board:
 - (i) the nonrefundable application fee set by the Board; and

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(ii) the license fee set by the Board; and

(2) provides satisfactory evidence that, at the time the applicant was licensed in the other state, the applicant was required to meet the qualifications for licensure that were substantially equivalent to the qualifications in the State.

(c) The Board may grant a waiver under this section only if the state in which the applicant is licensed waives the qualifications of licensees of the State to a similar extent as the State waives the qualification requirements for individuals licensed in that state.”;

in lines 12 and 29, in each instance, after “(a)” insert “**(1)**”; in the same lines, in each instance, strike “Beginning” and substitute “**EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, BEGINNING**”; in the same lines, in each instance, strike “**JULY 1, 2027**” and substitute “**JANUARY 1, 2028**”; after line 14, insert:

“(2) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2028, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION SERVICES IN AN EDUCATIONAL SETTING SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE 9, SUBTITLE 24, PART III OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, AS ENACTED BY SECTION 3 OF THIS ACT.”;

and in line 23, strike “**JULY 1, 2027**” and substitute “**JANUARY 1, 2028**”.

On page 7, before line 1, insert:

“(2) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2028, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION SERVICES IN AN EDUCATIONAL SETTING SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE 9, SUBTITLE 24, PART III OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, AS ENACTED BY SECTION 3 OF THIS ACT.”;

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and in line 9, strike "**JULY 1, 2027**" and substitute "**JANUARY 1, 2028**".