

HOUSE BILL 342

C3

6lr1822

By: ~~Delegate Behler~~ Delegates Behler, Boyce, and Odom

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 18, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Forestry Licenses – Applicant Qualifications – Alterations**

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

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
11 Section 7–304
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

17 7–304.

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

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 (b) ~~As~~ **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, AN** applicant shall
2 have graduated on completion of a 4-year curriculum in forestry from a college or
3 university that is:

4 (1) approved by the Board [or]; AND

5 (2) accredited by:

6 ~~(I) the Society of American Foresters; OR~~

7 ~~(II) AN EQUIVALENT ACCREDITING ENTITY.~~

8 (c) ~~The applicant shall have at least 2 years of experience in forestry that~~
9 ~~indicates to the Board that the applicant is competent to practice forestry.~~ **AN APPLICANT**
10 **MAY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION IF THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT**
11 **THE APPLICANT’S EDUCATION, INCLUDING A COMPARABLE GRADUATE DEGREE OR**
12 **INTERNATIONAL DEGREE, IS SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THE REQUIREMENTS**
13 **UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.