

Chapter 695

(Senate Bill 120)

AN ACT concerning

Acupuncture Licensure Requirements

FOR the purpose of altering the education requirements that an applicant for licensure by the State Acupuncture Board must achieve to be issued a license; and generally relating to the State Acupuncture Board.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 1A–302
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Health Occupations

1A–302.

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

(b) The application shall:

(1) Be of good moral character;

(2) Be at least 18 years old;

(3) Demonstrate competence in performing acupuncture by meeting ~~one of~~ the following standards for education or training:

(i) **IF THE APPLICANT IS ISSUED A LICENSE ON OR BEFORE MAY 31, 2026:**

1. Graduation from at least a master’s level program or its equivalent in acupuncture that is:

~~**A.**~~ Approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission;

~~2.~~ **B.** Accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; or

~~3.~~ **C.** Found by the Board to be equivalent to a course approved or accredited under item ~~1.~~ **A** or ~~2.~~ **B** of this item; or

(ii) ~~1.~~ **2.** ~~[Achievement] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ITEM 2 OF THIS ITEM, ACHIEVEMENT~~ of a:

[1.] **A.** Diplomate in acupuncture from the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; ~~[or]~~ **AND**

[2.] **B.** Passing score on an examination that is determined by the Board to be equivalent to the examination given by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; **OR**

~~2. IF THE APPLICANT IS ISSUED A LICENSE ON OR BEFORE MAY 31, 2026, ACHIEVEMENT OF A:~~

~~**A. DIPLOMATE IN ACUPUNCTURE FROM THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE; OR**~~

~~**B. PASSING SCORE ON AN EXAMINATION THAT IS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD TO BE EQUIVALENT TO THE EXAMINATION GIVEN BY THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE;**~~

(ii) **IF THE APPLICANT IS ISSUED A LICENSE ON OR AFTER JUNE 1, 2026:**

1. GRADUATION FROM AT LEAST A MASTER’S LEVEL PROGRAM OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN ACUPUNCTURE THAT IS:

A. APPROVED BY THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION;

B. ACCREDITED BY THE ACCREDITATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE; OR

C. FOUND BY THE BOARD TO BE EQUIVALENT TO A COURSE APPROVED OR ACCREDITED UNDER ITEM A OR B OF THIS ITEM; AND

2. ACHIEVEMENT OF A PASSING SCORE ON AN EXAMINATION GIVEN BY THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR

ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE OR DETERMINED BY THE BOARD TO BE EQUIVALENT TO THE EXAMINATION GIVEN BY THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE;

- (4) Demonstrate the ability to communicate in the English language; and
- (5) Meet any other qualifications that the Board establishes in regulations.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 29, 2022.