

# SENATE BILL 222

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(PRE-FILED)

4r0167  
CF 4r0168

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By: **Chair, Finance Committee (By Request – Departmental – Health)**

Requested: September 13, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 3, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Environmental Health Specialists – Quorum, Examination, and**  
3 **Apprenticeships**

4 FOR the purpose of clarifying that a quorum of the State Board of Environmental Health  
5 Specialists consists of a majority of appointed members; altering the circumstances  
6 under which an applicant for licensure is qualified to take the examination by adding  
7 completion of an apprenticeship approved by the Board as an alternative to obtaining  
8 experience in an environmental health specialist-in-training program; authorizing  
9 the Board to approve an examination provider to administer the examination, rather  
10 than administering the examination itself; and generally relating to the State Board  
11 of Environmental Health Specialists.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article – Health Occupations  
14 Section 21-101(a)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY adding to  
18 Article – Health Occupations  
19 Section 21-101(a-1)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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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 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
2 Article – Health Occupations  
3 Section 21–204(a), 21–301(b)(1), 21–304, and 21–305  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

8 **Article – Health Occupations**

9 21–101.

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

11 **(A–1) “APPRENTICESHIP” MEANS A PROGRAM OF TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE**  
12 **UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST**  
13 **THAT IS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A BOARD–APPROVED BACCALAUREATE**  
14 **DEGREE FROM AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.**

15 21–204.

16 (a) A majority of the **APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE** Board is a quorum **TO DO**  
17 **BUSINESS.**

18 21–301.

19 (b) This section does not apply to:

20 (1) An environmental health specialist–in–training **PARTICIPATING IN**  
21 **AN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST–IN–TRAINING PROGRAM OR AN**  
22 **INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATING IN AN APPRENTICESHIP** as provided for under § 21–305 of  
23 this subtitle;

24 21–304.

25 (a) An applicant who otherwise qualifies for licensure is entitled to be examined  
26 as provided in this section.

27 (b) An applicant qualifies to take the examination if the applicant:

28 (1) (i) Has graduated from an accredited college or university with a  
29 baccalaureate degree that includes:

1                                   1.     A minimum of 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent  
2 quarter credit hours of chemical, physical, biological, and environmental sciences  
3 acceptable to the Board;

4                                   2.     A course in mathematics; and

5                                   3.     Laboratory coursework as required in regulations adopted  
6 by the Board; and

7                                   (ii)   Has [obtained]:

8                                   1.     **OBTAINED** 12 months of experience in an environmental  
9 health specialist-in-training program approved by the Board; or

10                                  2.     **COMPLETED AN APPRENTICESHIP APPROVED BY THE**  
11 **BOARD; OR**

12                                  (2)   Has graduated from an accredited college or university with a master's  
13 degree in public or environmental health science that includes:

14                                  (i)    A minimum of 30 semester credit hours or 45 quarter credit  
15 hours of chemical, physical, biological, or environmental sciences acceptable to the Board  
16 and obtained at the baccalaureate or master's level;

17                                  (ii)   A course in mathematics;

18                                  (iii)  3 months of internship approved by the Board if not previously  
19 completed; and

20                                  (iv)   Laboratory coursework as required in regulations adopted by the  
21 Board.

22                                  (c)   (1)   This subsection does not alter the requirement that an applicant  
23 demonstrate completion of a baccalaureate or master's degree to qualify for examination.

24                                  (2)   The Board may waive any of the specific course requirements for an  
25 applicant to qualify for examination in subsection (b) of this section if the Board determines  
26 that an applicant:

27                                  (i)    Has obtained an equivalent number of credit hours in a course  
28 relevant to practice as an environmental health specialist; or

29                                  (ii)   Has work experience that is an acceptable substitute for a course  
30 required in subsection (b) of this section.

1 (d) The examination required by the Board shall include a written examination  
 2 in the physical, biological, and environmental sciences that relates to practices and  
 3 principles of environmental health.

4 (e) The Board shall [administer]:

5 (1) ADMINISTER examinations to applicants at least once a year, at the  
 6 times and places that the Board determines; OR

7 (2) APPROVE AN EXAMINATION PROVIDER TO ADMINISTER THE  
 8 EXAMINATION TO APPLICANTS.

9 [(f) The Board shall notify each qualified applicant of the time and place of  
 10 examination.]

11 [(g) (F) [The] IF THE BOARD ADMINISTERS THE EXAMINATION, THE Board  
 12 shall:

13 (1) NOTIFY EACH QUALIFIED APPLICANT OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF  
 14 THE EXAMINATION;

15 [(1) (2) Determine the subjects, scope, form, and passing score for  
 16 examinations; and

17 [(2) (3) Use professional examinations prepared by recognized  
 18 examination agencies.

19 (G) IF A BOARD-APPROVED EXAMINATION PROVIDER ADMINISTERS THE  
 20 EXAMINATION, THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY EACH QUALIFIED APPLICANT OF THE  
 21 REGISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR THE EXAMINATION.

22 (h) An applicant who fails an examination may retake the examination as  
 23 provided in the rules and regulations adopted by the Board.

24 (i) The Board may waive any examination requirement under this section if the  
 25 Board recognizes the applicant as being outstanding in the field of environmental health.

26 21-305.

27 The Board shall adopt regulations that include:

28 (1) (i) The establishment of an environmental health  
 29 specialist-in-training program for applicants to obtain the necessary experience to qualify  
 30 to take the examination; and

1 (ii) A condition that a person may not participate in an  
2 environmental health specialist-in-training program for more than 3 years, unless granted  
3 an extension by the Board; [and]

4 (2) (i) The establishment of a seasonal environmental health  
5 specialist-in-training program for individuals to be temporarily employed as  
6 environmental health specialists; and

7 (ii) A condition that an individual may not participate in a seasonal  
8 environmental health specialist-in-training program for more than 6 months within a  
9 consecutive 12-month period; AND

10 (3) (I) THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF AN  
11 APPRENTICESHIP; AND

12 (II) THE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM DURATION OF AN  
13 APPRENTICESHIP.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15 October 1, 2024.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.