

# HOUSE BILL 168

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By: **Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee (By Request – Departmental – Health)**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2018

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 14, 2018

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and**  
3 **Speech–Language Pathologists – Inactive Status of Licenses**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid  
5 Dispensers, and Speech–Language Pathologists to place a licensee on inactive status  
6 under certain circumstances; prohibiting the Board from placing a licensee on  
7 inactive status for more than a certain number of years beginning on a certain date;  
8 authorizing a licensee to renew inactive status for not more than a certain number  
9 of consecutive additional terms; requiring the Board to provide a certain licensee  
10 with written notification of certain information; prohibiting a licensee on inactive  
11 status from practicing audiology, hearing aid dispensing, or speech–language  
12 pathology; authorizing a licensee on inactive status to reactivate the license under  
13 certain circumstances; requiring that a certain license be placed on nonrenewed  
14 status under certain circumstances; authorizing a certain licensee to apply to  
15 reinstate the license if the licensee meets certain requirements; and generally  
16 relating to the inactive status of licenses issued by the State Board of Examiners for  
17 Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech–Language Pathologists.

18 BY adding to

19 Article – Health Occupations

20 Section 2–308.1

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 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 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
2 That Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Health Occupations**

4 **2-308.1.**

5 (A) (1) THE BOARD SHALL PLACE A LICENSEE ON INACTIVE STATUS IF  
6 THE LICENSEE SUBMITS TO THE BOARD:

7 (I) AN APPLICATION FOR INACTIVE STATUS ON THE FORM  
8 REQUIRED BY THE BOARD; AND

9 (II) THE INACTIVE STATUS FEE SET BY THE BOARD.

10 (2) THE BOARD MAY NOT PLACE A LICENSEE ON INACTIVE STATUS  
11 FOR MORE THAN 2 YEARS, BEGINNING ON THE DATE THE BOARD GRANTS THE  
12 APPLICATION FOR INACTIVE STATUS.

13 (B) A LICENSEE MAY RENEW THE INACTIVE STATUS FOR NOT MORE THAN  
14 TWO CONSECUTIVE ADDITIONAL TERMS.

15 (C) THE BOARD SHALL PROVIDE A LICENSEE WHO HAS COMPLIED WITH THE  
16 REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION WITH WRITTEN  
17 NOTIFICATION OF:

18 (1) THE DATE THAT THE LICENSEE'S INACTIVE STATUS BECOMES  
19 EFFECTIVE;

20 (2) THE DATE THAT THE LICENSEE'S INACTIVE STATUS PERIOD  
21 EXPIRES; AND

22 (3) THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT REACTIVATING THE LICENSE OR, IF  
23 THE INACTIVE STATUS MAY BE RENEWED, RENEWING THE INACTIVE STATUS BEFORE  
24 THE INACTIVE STATUS PERIOD EXPIRES.

25 (D) A LICENSEE ON INACTIVE STATUS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS  
26 SECTION MAY NOT PRACTICE AUDIOLOGY, HEARING AID DISPENSING, OR  
27 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY OR ASSIST IN THE PRACTICE OF  
28 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY WHILE THE LICENSE IS ON INACTIVE STATUS.

29 (E) A LICENSEE ON INACTIVE STATUS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS  
30 SECTION MAY REACTIVATE THE LICENSE AT ANY TIME DURING THE INACTIVE  
31 STATUS PERIOD IF THE LICENSEE:

1 (1) PAYS TO THE BOARD THE REACTIVATION FEE SET BY THE BOARD;  
2 AND

3 (2) COMPLIES WITH ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS SET BY THE BOARD.

4 (F) IF A LICENSEE FAILS TO RENEW THE INACTIVE STATUS UNDER  
5 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION OR REACTIVATE THE LICENSE UNDER  
6 SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, THE LICENSE SHALL BE PLACED ON  
7 NONRENEWED STATUS.

8 (G) A LICENSEE WHOSE LICENSE HAS BEEN PLACED ON NONRENEWED  
9 STATUS UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION MAY APPLY TO THE BOARD TO  
10 REINSTATE THE LICENSE IF THE LICENSEE:

11 (1) MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 2-305 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR

12 (2) MEETS:

13 (i) THE CURRENT REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A NEW  
14 LICENSE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; AND

15 (ii) THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS  
16 ESTABLISHED BY THE REGULATIONS OF THE BOARD.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
18 October 1, 2018.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.