

HOUSE BILL 975

C2

6lr2277

By: **Delegates Rosenberg and Morales**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2016

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Lawyers – Admission to the Bar – Qualifications**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain applicants to qualify for admission to the Bar of
4 Maryland if the applicant meets certain requirements; providing for the application
5 of this Act; and generally relating to admission to the Bar.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
8 Section 10–207
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**
14 10–207.

15 (a) To qualify for admission to the Bar, an applicant shall be an individual who
16 meets the requirements of this section.

17 (b) An applicant shall be of good character and reputation.

18 (c) An applicant shall be at least 18 years old as of the date of admission.

19 (d) An applicant shall:

20 (1) have completed the academic work necessary to meet the minimum
21 requirements for admission to an American Bar Association approved law school; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) have a degree of juris doctor or its equivalent from a law school that the
2 Board recognizes.

3 (e) An applicant shall pass a written examination given by the Board under this
4 subtitle.

5 (f) An applicant shall meet any other qualification or requirement that the Court
6 of Appeals establishes by rule.

7 **(G) (1) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A NONIMMIGRANT ALIEN**
8 **WITHIN THE MEANING OF 8 U.S.C. § 1101(A)(15).**

9 **(2) AN APPLICANT WHO IS AN UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT MAY**
10 **QUALIFY FOR ADMISSION TO THE BAR IF, IN ADDITION TO MEETING THE OTHER**
11 **REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, THE APPLICANT:**

12 **(I) ATTENDED A PUBLIC OR NONPUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL**
13 **IN THE STATE FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS;**

14 **(II) GRADUATED FROM A PUBLIC OR NONPUBLIC SECONDARY**
15 **SCHOOL IN THE STATE OR RECEIVED THE EQUIVALENT OF A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**
16 **IN THE STATE;**

17 **(III) PROVIDES DOCUMENTATION THAT THE APPLICANT OR THE**
18 **APPLICANT'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN HAS FILED A MARYLAND INCOME TAX**
19 **RETURN ANNUALLY FOR THE 3 YEARS WHILE THE APPLICANT ATTENDED A PUBLIC**
20 **OR NONPUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE STATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEM (I)**
21 **OF THIS PARAGRAPH;**

22 **(IV) IN THE CASE OF AN APPLICANT WHO IS NOT A PERMANENT**
23 **RESIDENT, PROVIDES AN AFFIDAVIT STATING THAT THE APPLICANT WILL FILE AN**
24 **APPLICATION TO BECOME A PERMANENT RESIDENT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE**
25 **APPLICANT BECOMES ELIGIBLE TO DO SO; AND**

26 **(V) IN THE CASE OF AN APPLICANT WHO IS REQUIRED TO**
27 **REGISTER WITH THE SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM, PROVIDES DOCUMENTATION**
28 **THAT THE APPLICANT HAS COMPLIED WITH THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT.**

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2016.