

SENATE BILL 222

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(PRE-FILED)

4r0167
CF 4r0168

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

Requested: September 13, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

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)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
23 Article – Health Occupations
24 Section 21-204(a), 21-301(b)(1), 21-304, and 21-305
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Health Occupations**

4 21–101.

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

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

10 21–204.

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

13 21–301.

14 (b) This section does not apply to:

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

19 21–304.

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

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

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

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

28 2. A course in mathematics; and

29 3. Laboratory coursework as required in regulations adopted
30 by the Board; and

1 (ii) Has [obtained]:

2 1. **OBTAINED** 12 months of experience in an environmental
3 health specialist–in–training program approved by the Board; or

4 2. **COMPLETED AN APPRENTICESHIP APPROVED BY THE**
5 **BOARD; OR**

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

8 (i) A minimum of 30 semester credit hours or 45 quarter credit
9 hours of chemical, physical, biological, or environmental sciences acceptable to the Board
10 and obtained at the baccalaureate or master’s level;

11 (ii) A course in mathematics;

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

14 (iv) Laboratory coursework as required in regulations adopted by the
15 Board.

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

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

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

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

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

28 (e) The Board shall [administer]:

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

1 **(2) APPROVE AN EXAMINATION PROVIDER TO ADMINISTER THE**
2 **EXAMINATION TO APPLICANTS.**

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

5 [(g)] **(F)** [The] **IF THE BOARD ADMINISTERS THE EXAMINATION, THE** Board
6 shall:

7 **(1) NOTIFY EACH QUALIFIED APPLICANT OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF**
8 **THE EXAMINATION;**

9 **[(1)] (2)** Determine the subjects, scope, form, and passing score for
10 examinations; and

11 **[(2)] (3)** Use professional examinations prepared by recognized
12 examination agencies.

13 **(G) IF A BOARD-APPROVED EXAMINATION PROVIDER ADMINISTERS THE**
14 **EXAMINATION, THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY EACH QUALIFIED APPLICANT OF THE**
15 **REGISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR THE EXAMINATION.**

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

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

20 21–305.

21 The Board shall adopt regulations that include:

22 (1) (i) The establishment of an environmental health
23 specialist–in–training program for applicants to obtain the necessary experience to qualify
24 to take the examination; and

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

28 (2) (i) The establishment of a seasonal environmental health
29 specialist–in–training program for individuals to be temporarily employed as
30 environmental health specialists; and

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

4 **(3) (I) THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF AN**
5 **APPRENTICESHIP; AND**

6 **(II) THE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM DURATION OF AN**
7 **APPRENTICESHIP.**

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