

HOUSE BILL 168

J2

8lr0044

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

A BILL ENTITLED

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)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

24 That Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – Health Occupations**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **2-308.1.**

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

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

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

7 (2) THE BOARD MAY NOT PLACE A LICENSEE ON INACTIVE STATUS
8 FOR MORE THAN 2 YEARS, BEGINNING ON THE DATE THE BOARD GRANTS THE
9 APPLICATION FOR INACTIVE STATUS.

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

12 (C) THE BOARD SHALL PROVIDE A LICENSEE WHO HAS COMPLIED WITH THE
13 REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION WITH WRITTEN
14 NOTIFICATION OF:

15 (1) THE DATE THAT THE LICENSEE'S INACTIVE STATUS BECOMES
16 EFFECTIVE;

17 (2) THE DATE THAT THE LICENSEE'S INACTIVE STATUS PERIOD
18 EXPIRES; AND

19 (3) THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT REACTIVATING THE LICENSE OR, IF
20 THE INACTIVE STATUS MAY BE RENEWED, RENEWING THE INACTIVE STATUS BEFORE
21 THE INACTIVE STATUS PERIOD EXPIRES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 **(2) MEETS:**

11 **(i) THE CURRENT REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A NEW**
12 **LICENSE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

13 **(ii) THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**
14 **ESTABLISHED BY THE REGULATIONS OF THE BOARD.**

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