

Chapter 279

(House Bill 631)

AN ACT concerning

**State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators – Board Membership
and Provisional Licensing Requirements**

FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that the Secretary of Health make certain recommendations for the appointment of certain members of the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators after consulting with certain associations and societies; requiring the Secretary to recommend to the Governor professionals who have certain qualifications for certain appointments to the Board; ~~authorizing the Board to issue a provisional license for less than a certain number of days; clarifying the length of a certain provisional period;~~ making conforming changes; and generally relating to the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Health Occupations
 Section 9–202(a) and (b) ~~and 9–301~~
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

Article – Health Occupations

9–202.

(a) (1) The Board consists of 14 members.

(2) Of the 14 Board members:

(i) Six [members] shall be licensed nursing home administrators [who are practicing actively and have at least 5 years' experience as licensed nursing home administrators], one of whom has experience with the Eden Alternative Green House or a similar program, if practicable;

(ii) Two shall be individuals who are not nursing home administrators but who are engaged actively in professions that are concerned with the care of chronically ill, infirm, or aged individuals;

(iii) One shall be a physician or a nurse practitioner who specializes in geriatrics;

(iv) One shall be a geriatric social worker;

(v) One shall be the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman designated under § 10-903 of the Human Services Article; and

(vi) Two shall be consumer members.

(3) Not more than three members may be officials or full-time employees of this State or of any of its political subdivisions.

(4) A representative of the Office of Health Care Quality shall serve as an ex officio member.

(b) (1) The Governor shall appoint the consumer members with the advice of the Secretary and the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) (i) Except for the consumer members and the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the Governor shall appoint each Board member, with the advice of the Secretary.

(ii) The Secretary shall [make each recommendation after consulting with the associations and societies appropriate to the disciplines and professions representative] **RECOMMEND A PROFESSIONAL WHO:**

1. IS ACTIVELY PRACTICING;

2. HAS A MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS OF APPROPRIATE PRACTICE EXPERIENCE IN THE DISCIPLINE of the vacancy to be filled; AND

3. OTHERWISE MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

~~9-301.~~

~~(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an individual shall be licensed by the Board before the individual may practice as a nursing home administrator in this State.~~

~~(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, if a licensee leaves or is removed from a position as a nursing home administrator by death or for any other unexpected cause, the owner of the nursing home or other appropriate nursing home authority shall immediately:~~

~~(i) Designate a licensed nursing home administrator to serve in that capacity; and~~

~~(ii) Notify the Board of the designated licensed nursing home administrator's name.~~

~~(2) (i) 1. In the event a licensed nursing home administrator is not available, the owner or other appropriate nursing home authority shall immediately appoint a nonlicensed person to serve in the capacity of interim nursing home administrator.~~

~~2. The appointed nonlicensed person may act as the interim nursing home administrator on filing an application with the Board requesting a provisional license to practice as the interim nursing home administrator for a period not to exceed 90 days.~~

~~(ii) 1. The owner or other appropriate nursing home authority shall immediately notify the Board of the appointment and forward the credentials of the person appointed to the Board for evaluation to assure that the person appointed is experienced, trained, and competent.~~

~~2. The Board may issue a provisional license to the applicant if the Board determines, in its discretion, that the applicant is of good moral character and capable of adequately administering the nursing home for the provisional period.~~

~~3. THE BOARD, IN ITS DISCRETION, MAY ISSUE A PROVISIONAL LICENSE FOR A PERIOD OF LESS THAN 90 DAYS.~~

~~[3.] 4. If the Board denies an application submitted in accordance with subparagraph (i) 2 of this paragraph:~~

~~A. The nonlicensed person shall immediately cease acting as the interim nursing home administrator; and~~

~~B. If a licensed nursing home administrator remains unavailable, the owner or other appropriate nursing home authority shall immediately appoint another nonlicensed person to act as the interim nursing home administrator.~~

~~[4.] 5. A person appointed under subsubparagraph [3.] 4 of this subparagraph shall file an application for a provisional license with the Board in accordance with this paragraph.~~

~~(iii) The [90-day] PROVISIONAL period begins on the date that the licensee leaves or is removed from the position as a nursing home administrator.~~

~~(iv) The Board, on request and for good cause shown, may extend the [90 day] INITIAL PROVISIONAL period for a further period of not more than 30 days.~~

~~(3) A licensed nursing home administrator designated under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall submit to a criminal history records check in accordance with § 9-302.1 of this subtitle.~~

~~(4) A person appointed in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection shall submit to a criminal history records check in accordance with § 9-302.1 of this subtitle.~~

~~(5) The Board may deny approval of an appointment under paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection based on the results of a criminal history records check required under paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection after consideration of the factors listed in § 9-308(b)(1) of this subtitle.~~

~~(6) Paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection do not apply to a person licensed by a health occupations board who previously has completed a criminal history records check required for licensure.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.