

Chapter 694

(House Bill 188)

AN ACT concerning

**Acupuncture Licensure Requirements**

FOR the purpose of altering the education requirements that an applicant for licensure by the State Acupuncture Board must achieve to be issued a license; and generally relating to the State Acupuncture Board.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Health Occupations  
Section 1A–302  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2021 Replacement Volume)

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

**Article – Health Occupations**

1A–302.

(a) To qualify for a license, an applicant shall be an individual who meets the requirements of this section.

(b) The application shall:

(1) Be of good moral character;

(2) Be at least 18 years old;

(3) Demonstrate competence in performing acupuncture by meeting ~~one of~~ the following standards for education or training:

(i) **IF THE APPLICANT IS ISSUED A LICENSE ON OR BEFORE MAY 31, 2026:**

**1.** Graduation from at least a master’s level program or its equivalent in acupuncture that is:

~~±~~ **A.** Approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission;

~~2.~~ **B.** Accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; or

~~3.~~ **C.** Found by the Board to be equivalent to a course approved or accredited under item ~~1.~~ **A** or ~~2.~~ **B** of this item; or

(ii) ~~1.~~ **2.** ~~[Achievement] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ITEM 2 OF THIS ITEM, ACHIEVEMENT~~ of a:

[1.] **A.** Diplomate in acupuncture from the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; ~~[or] AND~~

[2.] **B.** Passing score on an examination that is determined by the Board to be equivalent to the examination given by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; **OR**

~~2. IF THE APPLICANT IS ISSUED A LICENSE ON OR BEFORE MAY 31, 2026, ACHIEVEMENT OF A:~~

~~**A. DIPLOMATE IN ACUPUNCTURE FROM THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE; OR**~~

~~**B. PASSING SCORE ON AN EXAMINATION THAT IS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD TO BE EQUIVALENT TO THE EXAMINATION GIVEN BY THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE;**~~

**(II) IF THE APPLICANT IS ISSUED A LICENSE ON OR AFTER JUNE 1, 2026:**

**1. GRADUATION FROM AT LEAST A MASTER’S LEVEL PROGRAM OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN ACUPUNCTURE THAT IS:**

**A. APPROVED BY THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION;**

**B. ACCREDITED BY THE ACCREDITATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE; OR**

**C. FOUND BY THE BOARD TO BE EQUIVALENT TO A COURSE APPROVED OR ACCREDITED UNDER ITEM A OR B OF THIS ITEM; AND**

**2. ACHIEVEMENT OF A PASSING SCORE ON AN EXAMINATION GIVEN BY THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR**

**ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE OR DETERMINED BY THE BOARD TO BE EQUIVALENT TO THE EXAMINATION GIVEN BY THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE;**

- (4) Demonstrate the ability to communicate in the English language; and
- (5) Meet any other qualifications that the Board establishes in regulations.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

**Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 29, 2022.**