

# HOUSE BILL 911

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By: ~~Delegate Bagnall~~ Delegates Bagnall, Belcastro, Bhandari, Carr, Chisholm, Cullison, Hill, Johnson, Kaiser, Kelly, Kerr, Kipke, Landis, R. Lewis, Morgan, Reilly, Rosenberg, Saab, Sample-Hughes, Szeliga, and K. Young

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022  
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 10, 2022

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Psychologists – ~~Doctoral Degrees~~ Licensure Qualifications**

3 FOR the purpose of altering ~~the definition of “doctoral degree in psychology” to include a~~  
4 ~~certain postdoctoral respecialization certificate for purposes of licensure the~~  
5 qualifications an individual must have to be licensed as a psychologist by the State  
6 Board of Examiners of Psychologists; and generally relating to the licensure of  
7 psychologists and doctoral degrees.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Health Occupations  
10 Section 18–101(c) and 18–302(f)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2021 Replacement Volume)

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

15 **Article – Health Occupations**

16 18–101.

17 (c) (1) “Doctoral degree in psychology” means:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (i) A degree received from a program that at the time the degree was  
2 awarded:

3 1. Is accredited by the American Psychological Association or  
4 the Canadian Psychological Association; or

5 2. Is listed in the designated doctoral programs in psychology  
6 published by the Council for the National Register of Health Service Providers in  
7 Psychology; [or]

8 (ii) ~~A POSTDOCTORAL RESPECIALIZATION CERTIFICATE FROM~~  
9 ~~A PROGRAM THAT AT THE TIME THE CERTIFICATE WAS AWARDED WAS OFFERED~~  
10 ~~THROUGH A DEGREE PROGRAM THAT IS ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN~~  
11 ~~PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION~~ A DEGREE RECEIVED FROM A DOCTORAL PROGRAM  
12 IN PSYCHOLOGY FROM A SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY THAT, AT THE TIME THE DEGREE  
13 WAS AWARDED, HAD A REGIONAL ACCREDITATION RECOGNIZED BY THE COUNCIL  
14 FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION OR THE CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL  
15 ASSOCIATION; OR

16 [(ii)] (iii) A doctoral degree in psychology that the Council for the  
17 National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology determines meets its criteria  
18 for a doctoral degree in psychology, if the degree was received from a doctoral program in  
19 psychology that:

20 1. Is located outside the United States and Canada;

21 2. Is currently accredited or designated in accordance with  
22 item (i) of this paragraph, but was not accredited or designated at the time the degree was  
23 awarded;

24 3. Was completed prior to 1981 for United States programs;

25 4. Was completed prior to 1988 for Canadian programs; or

26 5. Is no longer in existence.

27 (2) (i) A determination by the Council under paragraph [(1)(ii)] **(1)(III)**  
28 of this subsection that a doctoral degree in psychology meets its criteria shall be considered  
29 by the Board as prima facie evidence that the degree meets those criteria.

30 (ii) In determining whether the degree in psychology meets the  
31 criteria described in paragraph [(1)(ii)] **(1)(III)** of this subsection and subparagraph (i) of  
32 this paragraph, the Board may consider the completion of postdoctoral course work in  
33 psychology, not to exceed 9 semester hours.

1 (f) In addition to the other requirements of this section, to qualify to be a licensed  
2 psychologist, an applicant [shall] MUST HAVE:

3 (1) (I) [Have a] A doctoral degree in psychology AS DEFINED IN §  
4 18-101(C)(1)(I) OR (III) OF THIS TITLE; and

5 [(2)] (II) [Have at] AT least 2 years of professional, supervised experience  
6 in psychology that is approved by the Board in accordance with regulations adopted by the  
7 Board; OR

8 (2) (I) A DOCTORAL DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY AS DEFINED IN §  
9 18-101(C)(1)(II) OF THIS TITLE;

10 (II) RECEIVED A POSTDOCTORAL RESPECIALIZATION  
11 CERTIFICATE FROM A DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY THAT, AT THE TIME THE  
12 CERTIFICATE WAS ISSUED, HAD A DEGREE PROGRAM THAT WAS ACCREDITED BY THE  
13 AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OR THE CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL  
14 ASSOCIATION;

15 (III) COMPLETED A MINIMUM OF 1,500 HOURS OF  
16 POSTCERTIFICATION ADVANCED TRAINING HOURS OR PRECERTIFICATION HOURS  
17 OF SERVICE AS A REGISTERED PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
18 REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD; AND

19 (IV) AT LEAST 2 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL, SUPERVISED  
20 EXPERIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY THAT IS APPROVED BY THE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE  
21 WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD.

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.