

SENATE BILL 120

J3

(PRE-FILED)

2lr0840
CF HB 188

By: **Senator Lam (By Request)**

Requested: October 20, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 13, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Acupuncture Licensure Requirements**

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

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Health Occupations
8 Section 1A–302
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2021 Replacement Volume)

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

13 **Article – Health Occupations**

14 1A–302.

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

17 (b) The application shall:

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 (1) Be of good moral character;
- 2 (2) Be at least 18 years old;
- 3 (3) Demonstrate competence in performing acupuncture by meeting ~~one of~~
4 the following standards for education or training:

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

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

9 ~~1.~~ **A.** Approved by the Maryland Higher Education
10 Commission;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (ii) **IF THE APPLICANT IS ISSUED A LICENSE ON OR AFTER JUNE**
31 **1, 2026:**

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

3 A. APPROVED BY THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION
4 COMMISSION;

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

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

9 2. ACHIEVEMENT OF A PASSING SCORE ON AN
10 EXAMINATION GIVEN BY THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR
11 ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE OR DETERMINED BY THE BOARD TO BE
12 EQUIVALENT TO THE EXAMINATION GIVEN BY THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION
13 COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE;

14 (4) Demonstrate the ability to communicate in the English language; and

15 (5) Meet any other qualifications that the Board establishes in regulations.

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.