

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 378

(Delegate Guzzone)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

State Board of Dietetic Practice - Dietitian-Nutritionists - Application
Requirements

This bill alters the requirements for licensure as a dietitian-nutritionist from the State Board of Dietetic Practice. To qualify, an individual must, *at a minimum*, receive a baccalaureate degree from a college or university accredited by an educational accrediting association as required by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (instead of as recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation). The bill also updates the name of the Certification Board for Nutritional Specialists to be the Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists, and the name of the American College of Nutrition to be the American Nutrition Association. The bill makes other technical changes to clarify instances in which current law applies to dietitians. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is technical in nature and does not directly affect government finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Board of Dietetic Practice, established in 1985, fulfills its mission by issuing dietitian-nutritionist licenses, setting standards for the practice of dietetics, developing and enforcing regulations, resolving complaints, and educating the public. The board also enforces title protection of “licensed dietitian-nutritionist” to those

individuals licensed by the board. The board oversees approximately 2,917 licensed dietitian-nutritionists.

Generally, to qualify for a license as a dietician-nutritionist, an applicant must be at least 18 years old, of good moral character, meet certain educational requirements (detailed below), pass an examination approved by the board, and meet any other qualifications or requirements established by the board.

An individual may satisfy the educational requirements for licensure by *either* (1) satisfactorily completing academic requirements for the field of dietetics as approved by the board and receiving a baccalaureate degree from a college or university accredited by an educational accrediting association recognized by the Council on Higher Education and Accreditation (CHEA) or (2) receiving a master's or doctoral degree from a college or university accredited by an education accreditation association recognized by CHEA in nutritional sciences (with emphasis in human nutrition), food and nutrition, dietetics, human nutrition, community nutrition, public health nutrition, or equivalent training approved by the board.

All applicants must also have satisfactorily completed a board-approved program of supervised clinical experience and submit proof of certification by the Certification Board for Nutrition Specialists (renamed under the bill) or of registration with the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 330 (Senator Beidle) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 2024
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