

Chapter 874

(House Bill 265)

AN ACT concerning

Insurance – Producer Licensing Requirements – Education and Experience

FOR the purpose of repealing the requirements for education and experience for licensing certain insurance producers, including producers for property and casualty insurance, life insurance, health insurance, annuities, ~~certain limited lines~~, and related products; and generally relating to requirements for licensing insurance producers.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Insurance

Section 10–104, 10–105, 10–108, 10–109, 10–119(b) and (h), 10–120(a), 10–122(a), 10–124(a), and 10–125(d)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2017 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

Article – Insurance

10–104.

(a) This section applies to:

(1) a license to act as an insurance producer for insurance other than life insurance, health insurance, or annuities;

(2) a limited lines license to act as an insurance producer for limited line credit insurance other than credit life insurance or credit health insurance; and

(3) a limited lines license to act as an insurance producer for a line of insurance described in §§ 10–122 through 10–125 of this subtitle.

(b) To qualify for a license to which this section applies, an individual applicant must meet the requirements of this section.

(c) An applicant must be of good character and trustworthy based on the standards of § 10–126 of this subtitle.

(d) An applicant must be at least 18 years of age.

(e) An applicant may not have committed any act that the Commissioner finds would warrant denial of a license under § 10–126 of this subtitle.

(f) [(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section:

(i) so that the applicant is reasonably familiar with the kind or subdivision of insurance for which the applicant wants to be licensed, the applicant must complete successfully a program of studies that has been established or approved by the Commissioner;

(ii) during the 3 years immediately preceding the date of application, the applicant must have been employed regularly for periods totaling at least 1 year:

1. by the Administration as an employee or by an insurer or insurance producer; and

2. in responsible insurance duties in connection with the kind or subdivision of insurance for which the applicant wants to be licensed; or

(iii) during the 3 years immediately preceding the date of entering or immediately after discharge from the armed forces of the United States, the applicant must have been employed regularly for periods totaling at least 1 year:

1. by an insurer or insurance producer; and

2. in connection with the kind or subdivision of insurance for which the applicant wants to be licensed.

(2) In the case of an applicant for a limited lines license to act as an insurance producer for limited line credit insurance, the applicant shall complete successfully a program of instruction that is:

(i) provided by an insurer that sells, solicits, or negotiates limited line credit insurance; and

(ii) approved by the Commissioner.

(g) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the applicant must pass an examination given by the Commissioner under this subtitle.

[(h) The Commissioner may waive the requirements of subsection (f) of this section for an applicant for a license for property insurance or casualty insurance if the applicant:

(1) (i) has been conferred the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (C.P.C.U.) designation by The American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters; and

(ii) is a member in good standing of the Society of Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriters;

(2) has been conferred the designation of Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society;

(3) has been conferred the designation of Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) by the Society of Certified Insurance Counselors; or

(4) has been conferred the designation of:

(i) Accredited Adviser in Insurance (AAI); or

(ii) Associate in Risk Management (ARM).]

[(i)] ~~(G)~~ (H) An applicant for a limited lines license to act as an insurance producer for limited line credit insurance need not meet the examination requirements of subsection **~~[(g)] (F)~~** of this section.

[(j)] ~~(H)~~ (I) An applicant may be licensed as to any particular kind or kinds of insurance.

10–105.

(a) To qualify for a license as an insurance producer for life insurance, health insurance, annuities, nonprofit health service plans, dental plan organizations, health maintenance organizations, or fraternal benefit societies an individual applicant must meet the requirements of this section.

(b) An applicant must be of good character and trustworthy based on the standards of § 10–126 of this subtitle.

(c) An applicant must be at least 18 years of age.

(d) An applicant may not have committed any act that the Commissioner finds would warrant denial of a license under § 10–126 of this subtitle.

(e) **[(1)]** So that the applicant is reasonably familiar with the kind or subdivision of insurance for which the applicant wants to be licensed:

(i) the applicant must complete successfully a program of studies that has been established or approved by the Commissioner;

(ii) during the 3 years immediately preceding the date of application, the applicant must have been employed regularly for periods totaling at least 1 year:

1. by the Administration as an employee or by an insurer or insurance producer; and

2. in responsible insurance duties in connection with the kind or subdivision of insurance for which the applicant wants to be licensed; or

(iii) during the 3 years immediately preceding the date of entering or immediately after discharge from the armed forces of the United States, the applicant must have been employed regularly for periods totaling at least 1 year:

1. by an insurer or insurance producer; and

2. in connection with the kind or subdivision of insurance for which the applicant wants to be licensed.

(2) In the case of an applicant for a limited lines license to act as an insurance producer for credit life insurance or credit health insurance, the applicant shall successfully complete a program of instruction that is:

(i) provided by an insurer that sells, solicits, or negotiates limited line credit insurance; and

(ii) approved by the Commissioner.

[(3) The Commissioner may waive the requirement of paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection for life insurance for an applicant who:

(i) 1. has been conferred the Chartered Life Underwriter (C.L.U.) designation by the American College of Life Underwriters; and

2. is a member in good standing of the American Society of Chartered Life Underwriters; or

(ii) has been conferred the designation of:

1. Fellow of the Society of Actuaries;

2. Certified Employee Benefit Specialist (C.E.B.S.);

3. Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC);

4. Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC);

5. Certified Financial Planner (CFP);

6. Fellow, Life Management Institute (FLMI); or
7. Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow (LUTCF).

(4) The Commissioner may waive the requirement of paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection for health insurance for an applicant who has been conferred the designation of:

- (i) Registered Health Underwriter (RHU);
- (ii) Certified Employee Benefit Specialist (C.E.B.S.);
- (iii) Registered Employee Benefit Consultant (REBC); or
- (iv) Health Insurance Associate (HIA).]

~~(f)~~ Before taking a written examination, an applicant shall[

(1) demonstrate to the Commissioner that the applicant has completed the requirements set out by the Commissioner, including the requirements of subsection (e) of this section; and

(2)] pay the application fee required under § 2-112(a)(6)(vi) of this article.

~~[(g)]~~ (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the applicant must pass an examination given by the Commissioner under this subtitle.

(2) The following applicants are not required to take an examination:

(i) an applicant for a license to act as an insurance producer only for selling credit life insurance or credit accident and health insurance or both to a borrower of money or buyer of goods in connection with a loan or credit transaction;

(ii) an applicant for a license to act as an insurance producer for a dental plan organization if the applicant for compensation solicited, procured, or negotiated contracts for dental plan organizations continuously from July 1, 1988, to June 30, 1989;

(iii) an applicant for a license to act as an insurance producer for a nonprofit health service plan if the applicant for compensation solicited, procured, or negotiated contracts for nonprofit health service plans continuously from July 1, 1988, to June 30, 1989; or

(iv) an applicant for a license to act as an insurance producer for a health maintenance organization if the applicant for compensation solicited, procured, or negotiated contracts for health maintenance organizations continuously from July 1, 1988, to June 30, 1989.

~~[(h)] (G)~~ An applicant may be licensed as to any particular kind or kinds of insurance.

10–108.

(a) An individual applicant who otherwise qualifies for a license for insurance other than life insurance, health insurance, or annuities is entitled to be examined as provided in this section.

(b) To determine the competence of an individual applicant as to the kind or subdivision of insurance for which the applicant wants to become licensed, the applicant shall pass a written examination that relates to that kind or subdivision of insurance.

(c) The Commissioner shall adopt reasonable regulations that specify:

(1) the scope, type, conduct, and grading of the written examinations; **AND**

(2) the frequency, times, and locations within the State where the written examinations will be held~~];~~ and

(3) the educational requirements for an individual applicant to be eligible to take a written examination~~]~~.

(d) Before taking a written examination, an individual applicant shall~~]~~:

(1) (i) demonstrate to the Commissioner that the applicant has completed the educational requirements set out by the Commissioner; or

(ii) submit to the Commissioner at the time of the examination an affidavit from the employer of the applicant stating facts that show compliance with the applicable requirements of § 10–104(h)(2) or (3) of this subtitle, if the applicant qualifies by meeting the experience requirements of § 10–104(h)(2) or (3) of this subtitle; and

(2)~~]~~ pay the application fee required under § 2–112(a)(6)(vi) of this article.

(e) All written examinations shall be graded within 30 days following the date of the examination.

(f) An individual applicant who fails an examination may not take another examination until at least 4 days after the date of the last examination that the applicant failed.

10–109.

(a) An individual applicant who otherwise qualifies for a license for life insurance, health insurance, annuities, nonprofit health service plans, dental plan organizations, or health maintenance organizations is entitled to be examined as provided in this section.

(b) (1) Each individual applicant must pass a personal written examination to determine:

(i) the competence of the applicant as to life insurance, health insurance, or annuities or to any subdivision of them, including contracts for nonprofit health service plans, vision plans, dental plan organizations, and health maintenance organizations; and

(ii) the familiarity of the applicant with the applicable laws of the State.

(2) Each examination must be graded within 30 days after the date of the examination.

(c) An individual applicant who fails an examination may not take another examination until at least 4 days after the date of the last examination that the applicant failed.

(d) The Commissioner shall adopt reasonable regulations that specify:

(1) the scope, type, conduct, and grading of the written examinations; **AND**

(2) the frequency, times, and places in the State where the written examinations will be held[]; and

(3) subject to § 10–105(e) of this subtitle, the educational requirements for an individual applicant to be eligible to take a written examination[].

10–119.

(b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection and unless denied a license under § 10–126 of this subtitle, a person that is not a resident of this State may obtain a nonresident license to act as an insurance producer if:

(i) the person currently is licensed as a resident insurance producer and in good standing in the person's home state;

(ii) the person has submitted or transmitted to the Commissioner the application for licensure that the person submitted to the person's home state or a completed uniform application;

(iii) the person has paid the applicable fee under § 2-112 of this article; and

(iv) the person's home state awards nonresident insurance producer licenses to residents of this State on the same basis.

(2) An individual who applies for an insurance producer license in this State who was previously licensed for the same lines of authority in another state need not comply with the [education, experience, and] examination requirements of §§ 10-104, 10-105, and 10-107 through 10-109 of this subtitle if:

(i) the person currently is licensed as an insurance producer in the home state of the person;

(ii) the application is received by the Commissioner within 90 days after the cancellation of the applicant's previous license and the prior state issues a certification that, at the time of cancellation, the applicant was in good standing in that state; or

(iii) the state's producer database records, maintained by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, its affiliates or subsidiaries, indicate that the producer is or was licensed in good standing for the line of authority requested.

(h) (1) A person licensed as an insurance producer in another state who moves to this State shall apply to become licensed as a resident insurance producer under § 10-111 of this subtitle within 90 days after establishing legal residence in this State.

(2) If the person applies to become licensed as a resident insurance producer within 90 days after establishing legal residence in the State, the person need not comply with the [education, experience, and] examination requirements of §§ 10-104, 10-105, and 10-107 through 10-109 of this subtitle to obtain a license for any line of authority that the person previously held in the prior state, except where the Commissioner determines otherwise by regulation.

10-120.

(a) Without regard to the [education, experience, or] examination requirements of this subtitle, the Commissioner may issue a temporary license to act as an insurance producer to an individual if the individual:

(1) is otherwise qualified; and

(2) is:

(i) the surviving spouse, next of kin, personal representative, or appointee of the personal representative, of a deceased insurance producer;

(ii) the spouse, next of kin, employee, or legal guardian of a mentally or physically disabled insurance producer; or

(iii) an employee of a firm, or an officer or employee of a corporation, of a deceased or disabled insurance producer.

10–122.

(a) Without regard to the [education, experience, or] examination requirements of this subtitle, the Commissioner may issue a limited lines license to an individual who or a business entity that sells travel insurance.

10–124.

(a) Without regard to the [education, experience, or] examination requirements of this subtitle, the Commissioner may issue a limited lines license to an individual who is employed by a health maintenance organization solely to solicit membership in the health maintenance organization under a contract:

(1) between the health maintenance organization and the Maryland Department of Health; and

(2) in accordance with which the Maryland Department of Health obtains prepaid comprehensive health care services for recipients of medical assistance under § 15–105 of the Health – General Article.

10–125.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle:

(1) (i) the licensing, bonding, [education, experience,] and examination requirements of this subtitle relating to title insurance producers do not apply to law firms; and

(ii) except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the bonding[, education, experience,] and examination requirements of this subtitle relating to title insurance producers do not apply to attorneys.

(2) The bonding requirements of this subtitle are applicable to:

(i) an attorney or an association of attorneys who own, operate, or share an interest in a title agency; and

(ii) an attorney who is employed by a title agency as a title insurance producer.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2024.