

Chapter 31

(House Bill 256)

AN ACT concerning

Health Occupations Boards – Membership Alteration and Sunset Extensions

FOR the purpose of continuing the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists, the State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners, the State Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists, and the Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee within the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists in accordance with the provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law) by extending to a certain date the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the boards and Committee; altering the membership of the State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners; and generally relating to the health occupations boards.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Health Occupations

Section 2–201, 6–201, 6–202(b), 12–201, 17–201, and 17–6A–05

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health Occupations

Section 2–502, 6–202(a), 6–602, 12–802, 17–6A–31, and 17–702

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Health Occupations

2–201.

There is a State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists in the Department.

2–502.

Subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act, this title and all rules and regulations adopted under this title shall terminate and be of no effect after July 1, [2026] **2031**.

6–201.

There is a State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners in the Department.

6–202.

(a) (1) The Board consists of ~~[seven]~~ **NINE** members.

(2) Of the ~~[seven]~~ **NINE** Board members:

(i) ~~[Five]~~ **SIX** shall be licensed massage therapists; and

(ii) ~~[Two]~~ **THREE** shall be consumer members.

(3) (i) The Governor shall appoint the licensed massage therapist members with the advice of the Secretary, and the advice and consent of the Senate of Maryland, from a list of names of qualified individuals submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by an association that represents at least 250 licensed massage therapists in the State.

(ii) The number of names on the list shall be five times the number of vacancies.

(iii) The list shall include the name of the incumbent member unless the incumbent member declines renomination.

(4) The Governor shall appoint the consumer members with the advice of the Secretary and the advice and consent of the Senate of Maryland.

(b) (1) Each licensed massage therapist member shall be:

(i) A resident of the State;

(ii) A licensed massage therapist of integrity and ability who is in active practice;

(iii) A graduate of a Board–approved program in massage therapy; and

(iv) An individual who has practiced massage therapy in the State for at least 5 consecutive years before appointment.

(2) (i) In this paragraph, “good standing” means that the Board has not reprimanded the licensed massage therapist, suspended or revoked the license of the licensed massage therapist, or placed the licensed massage therapist on probation within 5 years before or after confirmation to the Board.

(ii) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection, each licensed massage therapy member of the Board shall be in good standing with the Board.

6–602.

Subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act, this title and all regulations adopted under this title shall terminate and be of no effect after July 1, [2026] **2031**.

12–201.

There is a State Board of Pharmacy in the Department.

12–802.

Subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the **MARYLAND** Program Evaluation Act, this title and all rules and regulations adopted under this title shall terminate and be of no effect after July 1, [2025] **2030**.

17–201.

There is a State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists.

17–6A–05.

There is a Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee within the Board.

17–6A–31.

Subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act, this subtitle and all rules and regulations adopted under this subtitle shall terminate and be of no effect after July 1, [2026] ~~2031~~ **2028**.

17–702.

Subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act, this title and all rules or regulations adopted under this title shall terminate and be of no effect after July 1, [2026] ~~2031~~ **2028**.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That notwithstanding § 6–202(f)(1) of the Health Occupations Article, the initial terms of the additional members of the State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners appointed under § 6–202(a) of the Health Occupations Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall expire in 2030.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2025.