

Chapter 12

(House Bill 723)

AN ACT concerning

~~State Board of Dental Examiners~~ – *Health Occupations – Authorization to Practice for Former Federal Employees and Dental Applicants Licensed or Certified in Another State*

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Dental Examiners to issue a license or certification to certain applicants licensed or certified by another state within a certain amount of time; requiring that a dental radiation technologist certified in another state be issued a certification by the State Board under certain circumstances; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to develop a plan for a temporary or permanent authorization to practice a health occupation in the State for certain individuals who left employment with a federal agency after a certain date; and generally relating to the ~~issuance of licenses and certifications by the State Board of Dental Examiners to applicants licensed or certified in another state practice of health occupations.~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health Occupations

Section 4–306

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Health Occupations

Section 4–505

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Health Occupations

Section 4–505.1

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

4–306.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “ADEX” means the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc., or its successor organization.

(3) (i) “ADHLEX” means the American Dental Hygiene Licensing Examination designed and developed by ADEX, or its successor examination.

(ii) “ADHLEX” includes a written component and a clinical component.

(4) (i) “ADLEX” means the American Dental Licensing Examination designed and developed by ADEX, or its successor examination.

(ii) “ADLEX” includes a written component and a clinical component.

(b) (1) A dentist licensed in any other state shall be issued a license in this State if the applicant:

(i) 1. Has passed the ADLEX; and

2. Has passed the Maryland Dental Jurisprudence Examination given by the Board or its designee; or

(ii) 1. For the 5 preceding years, has been actively engaged in practicing dentistry for at least 850 hours on average per year;

2. Has passed an examination with a clinical component as a requirement for licensure in another state;

3. Has passed a comprehensive written examination on applied clinical diagnosis and treatment planning administered by ADEX; and

4. Has passed the Maryland Dental Jurisprudence Examination given by the Board or its designee.

(2) A dental hygienist licensed in any other state shall be issued a license in this State if the applicant:

(i) 1. Has passed the ADHLEX; and

2. Has passed the Maryland Dental Hygiene Jurisprudence Examination given by the Board or its designee; or

(ii) 1. For the 3 preceding years, has been actively engaged in practicing dental hygiene for at least 150 hours on average per year;

2. Has passed an examination with a clinical component as a requirement for licensure in another state;

3. Has passed a comprehensive written examination on applied clinical diagnosis and treatment planning administered by ADEX; and

4. Has passed the Maryland Dental Hygiene Jurisprudence Examination given by the Board or its designee.

(c) (1) The Board may adopt regulations for the content and administration of examinations and any other regulations necessary to provide for the licensure of individuals who apply for a license to practice dentistry under subsection (b)(1) of this section.

(2) The Board may adopt regulations for the content and administration of examinations and any other regulations necessary to provide for the licensure of individuals who apply for a license to practice dental hygiene under subsection (b)(2) of this section.

(d) An applicant for a general license to practice dentistry under this section shall:

(1) Pay the application fee required by § 4–304 of this subtitle; and

(2) Provide adequate evidence that the applicant:

(i) Meets the qualifications otherwise required by this title for a general license to practice dentistry;

(ii) Holds a license to practice dentistry in another state;

(iii) Has satisfied the examination requirements provided in subsection (b)(1) of this section;

(iv) Is not being investigated by a disciplinary authority of another state, does not have charges pending against the applicant's license, and has not been disciplined by a disciplinary or licensing authority of any other state or country, or been convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under § 4–315 of this subtitle; and

(v) Has not previously failed an examination for licensure as a dentist in this State.

(e) An applicant for a general license to practice dental hygiene under this section shall:

(1) Pay the application fee required by § 4–304 of this subtitle; and

(2) Provide adequate evidence that the applicant:

(i) Meets the qualifications otherwise required by this title for a general license to practice dental hygiene;

(ii) Holds a license to practice dental hygiene in another state;

(iii) Has satisfied the examination requirements provided in subsection (b)(2) of this section;

(iv) Is not being investigated by a disciplinary authority of another state, does not have charges pending against the applicant's license, and has not been disciplined by a disciplinary or licensing authority of any other state or country, or been convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under § 4–315 of this subtitle; and

(v) Has not previously failed an examination for licensure as a dental hygienist in this State.

(F) IF AN APPLICANT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE UNDER THIS SECTION, THE BOARD SHALL ISSUE THE LICENSE WITHIN 15 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE COMPLETED APPLICATION.

4–505.

(a) The Board of Dental Examiners shall:

(1) Define, for the purpose of this section, the terms “dental radiation technologist” and “practice dental radiation technology”;

(2) Adopt rules and regulations concerning qualifications, training, certification, monitoring of, and enforcement requirements for a dental radiation technologist; and

(3) Provide for a requirement to ensure competency in new safety and technological advances.

(b) The qualifications required of applicants for Board certification as a dental radiation technologist shall include requirements established by:

(1) The American Dental Association; or

(2) Any applicable federal standards for training and certification.

(c) After July 1, 1988, an individual must be certified by the Board as a dental radiation technologist before a licensed dentist may employ the individual to practice dental radiation technology.

(d) After July 1, 1988, an individual may not practice dental radiation technology unless certified by the Board.

(e) At least 1 month before a certificate expires, the Board shall send to each certificate holder, by electronic means or first-class mail to the last known electronic or physical address of the certificate holder, a renewal notice that states:

(1) The date on which the current certificate expires;

(2) The date by which the renewal application must be received by the Board for the renewal to be issued and mailed before the certificate expires; and

(3) The amount of the renewal fee.

(f) An individual may be simultaneously certified as a dental radiation technologist under this section and as an expanded function dental assistant.

4-505.1.

(A) A DENTAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGIST AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE IN ANOTHER STATE SHALL BE ISSUED A CERTIFICATE IN THIS STATE IF THE APPLICANT:

(1) PAYS THE APPLICATION FEE REQUIRED BY THE BOARD; AND

(2) PROVIDES ADEQUATE EVIDENCE THAT THE APPLICANT:

(I) MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS OTHERWISE REQUIRED UNDER THIS TITLE FOR A CERTIFICATION TO PRACTICE DENTAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGY;

(II) HAS SATISFIED THE EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATION OF ANOTHER STATE THAT THE BOARD DETERMINES IS COMPARABLE TO THE EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT IN THIS STATE;

(III) IS NOT BEING INVESTIGATED BY A DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY OF ANOTHER STATE, DOES NOT HAVE CHARGES PENDING AGAINST THE APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION, AND HAS NOT BEEN DISCIPLINED BY A DISCIPLINARY OR CERTIFYING AUTHORITY OF ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTRY, OR BEEN CONVICTED OR DISCIPLINED BY A COURT OF ANY STATE OR COUNTRY FOR AN ACT THAT WOULD BE GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION UNDER § 4-315 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(IV) HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY FAILED AN EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFICATION AS A DENTAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGIST IN THIS STATE.

(B) IF AN APPLICANT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE BOARD SHALL ISSUE THE CERTIFICATE WITHIN 15 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE COMPLETED APPLICATION.

(C) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT ANY REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO APPLY FOR A CERTIFICATION TO PRACTICE DENTAL RADIATION THERAPY UNDER THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Maryland Department of Health shall develop a plan for a temporary or permanent authorization to practice a health occupation in the State for individuals who:

(1) are not licensed or otherwise authorized to practice the health occupation in the State;

(2) hold a license or other authorization issued by another state that is equivalent to the license or other authorization required to practice the health occupation in this State; and

(3) left employment with a federal agency after January 20, 2025.

(b) On or before October 1, 2025, the Department shall submit the plan, including any necessary statutory changes, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2025.