

**Nurses – English Language Oral Competency – Exemption**

FOR the purpose of providing an exemption to the requirement that an applicant for a license to practice registered nursing or licensed practical nursing demonstrate an oral competency in the English language if the applicant was previously licensed in any other state under certain circumstances; authorizing the Board of Nursing to issue certain temporary licenses to certain applicants under certain circumstances; and generally relating to nurses demonstrating oral competency in the English language.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health Occupations

Section 7-302(f)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1986 Replacement Volume and 1989 Supplement)

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

**Article – Health Occupations**

7-302.

(f) (1) [The] EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION, THE Board shall require as part of its examination or licensing procedures that an applicant for a license to practice registered nursing or licensed practical nursing demonstrate an oral competency in the English language.

(2) Graduation from a recognized English-speaking undergraduate school after at least 3 years of enrollment, or from a recognized English-speaking professional school is acceptable as proof of proficiency in the oral communication of the English language under this section.

(3) By regulation, the Board shall develop a procedure for testing individuals who because of their speech impairment are unable to complete satisfactorily a Board approved standardized test of oral competency.

(4) If any disciplinary charges or action that involves a problem with the oral communication of the English language are brought against a licensee under this title, the Board shall require the licensee to take and pass a Board approved standardized test of oral competency.

(5) THE BOARD MAY NOT REQUIRE THAT AN APPLICANT FOR A LICENSE TO PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING OR LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY LICENSED IN ANY OTHER STATE TO PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING OR LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING TO DEMONSTRATE AN ORAL COMPETENCY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AS PART OF ITS EXAMINATION OR LICENSING PROCEDURES IF THE OTHER STATE HAS A SIMILAR ORAL COMPETENCY COMPONENT AS PART OF ITS EXAMINATION OR LICENSING PROCEDURES.