

THERAPY ASSISTANT OR AS AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION; AND

(II) HAD AT LEAST 6 MONTHS FULL-TIME SUPERVISED FIELD WORK EXPERIENCE.

(B) OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT LICENSE.

THE BOARD SHALL WAIVE THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 9-302(E) OF THIS SUBTITLE FOR AN APPLICANT FOR AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT LICENSE:

(1) WHO APPLIED FOR A LICENSE BEFORE JULY 1, 1979;

(2) WHOSE PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE IS IN THIS STATE;

(3) WHO PRESENTS TO THE BOARD SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE THAT THE APPLICANT HAS PRACTICED LIMITED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN THIS STATE FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS BEFORE JULY 1, 1979; AND

(4) WHO HAS A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR HAS COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION OR PROGRAM.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived without substantive change from Art. 43, §§ 920(e) and 924.

As to subsection (a)(1)(ii) of this section, the intended meaning of the word "accredited" is not clear. The General Assembly may wish to clarify which entities may "accredit" a college or university.

In subsection (a)(2) of this section, new language is added to allow a waiver under this section for an occupational therapy assistant who has completed 4 years experience while either licensed by the Board or certified by the national organization. Present Art. 43, § 920(e) is ambiguous, but may apply only to experience gained as a licensed occupational therapy assistant. Therefore, since a person could not be licensed under present Art. 43, §§ 911 through 935 until after July 1, 1979, this interpretation would mean the provision could not be effective until at least 1983. As a corollary, an occupational therapy assistant who was certified by the national organization and practiced in another state would have to wait 4 years after coming to this State in order to meet this qualification. For these reasons, the Board believes that the new language is implied by the present law. The issue is noted to the General Assembly.