

(2) Be at least 18 years old;

(3) Demonstrate competence in performing acupuncture by meeting one of the following standards for [education, training, or demonstrated experience] EDUCATION OR TRAINING:

(i) Graduation from a course of training of at least 1,800 hours, including 300 clinical hours, that is:

- 1. Approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission;
- 2. [Approved] ACCREDITED by the National Accreditation Commission for Schools and Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; or
- 3. Found by the Board to be equivalent to a course approved by the National Accreditation Commission for Schools and Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; OR

(ii) Achievement of a passing score ~~[of at least 65 percent]~~ on an examination that is:

- 1. Given by the National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncturists; or
- 2. Determined by the Board to be equivalent to the examination given by the National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncturists;

[(iii) Successful completion of an apprenticeship outside of the State consisting of at least 2,700 hours within a 5-year period under the direction of an individual properly approved by the other jurisdiction to perform acupuncture; or

(iv) Performance of the practice of acupuncture in accordance with the law of another jurisdiction or jurisdictions for a period of at least 3 years within the 5 years immediately before application that consisted of at least 500 patient visits per year; and]

(4) DEMONSTRATE THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE; AND

[(4)](5) Meet any other qualifications that the Board establishes in regulations.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

Approved April 29, 1997.