



April 2025 Needle News

Spring 2025 Renewal Continues

2025 Legislative Session

By now I'm sure that many of you have some information about the 2025 legislative session due to one of the most widely publicised bills that impacts all Marylanders in some way. This is the Budget Reconciliation & Financing Act of 2025 (a.k.a The BRFA Bill - [HB 352/SB 321](#)). To ensure the financial stability of the State as a whole, the BRFA required State leaders to make hard financial decisions. This included the transfer of funds from BOA and other Health Professions Boards & Commissions to the Behavioral Health Administration. Some other bills that may be of interest professionally are as follows:

- [HB 350/SB 319](#) Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2026)
- [HB 367/SB 72](#) English Proficiency Requirements & Licensure by Endorsement for Nursing
- [HB 466/SB 277](#) Health Equality for Service Members Act
- [HB 723/SB 749](#) Authorization to Practice for Former Federal Employees & Dental Applicants Licensed or Certified in Another State

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Looking Forward

NCCAOM Certification

At present, the Board accepts NCCAOM certification as proof of credentialing for licensing. In the Summer of 2026, NCCAOM credentialing will be required for ALL new license applications. **NCCAOM** is the national standard for competency in the practice, and further solidifies

- [HB 783/SB 458](#) Implicit Bias and Structural Racism Training
- [HB 869/SB 372](#) Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025
- [SB 67](#) Notation of Veteran Status and Eligibility for Benefits

ACAHM SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR COMMISSIONERS

[The Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine \(ACAHM\)](#) is currently seeking nominations of qualified individuals to fill upcoming vacancies on the Commission. Some details are listed below. Please visit ACAHM's website for all information.

Current vacancy: open presently

- **One academic/educator member**, which is someone directly engaged in a significant manner in postsecondary education, teaching and/or research (e.g., professor, instructor, academic dean) currently or within the previous two (2) years.

Upcoming vacancies: open February 2026

- **Two administrator members**, which is someone directly engaged in a significant manner in postsecondary program or institutional administration currently or within the previous two (2) years.
- **One academic/educator member**, which is someone directly engaged in a significant manner in postsecondary education, teaching and/or research (e.g., professor, instructor, academic dean) currently or within the previous two (2) years.

To be considered as a potential nominee for election to current and/or upcoming vacancies, please provide by **31 May 2025**:

Auricular Detoxification

This treatment is based in TCM and has been cultivated to use five points on the ear to help patients with substance abuse addiction to achieve sobriety. Auricular Detoxification (AD) is proven to reduce cravings for alcohol, illegal drugs, cigarettes, sugar & other foods. Additionally, as it relates to the co-occurring behavioral symptoms, AD is proven to create calm state, reduce withdrawal symptoms, anxiety, insomnia, stress, depression, and situational influences that is beneficial for relapse prevention. Do you know that the Board maintains a registry of Auricular Detoxification Specialist (ADS)? Did you know that all ADS' are required to have a relationship with a supervising Acupuncturist? The Board would like to maintain a list of licensees willing to serve as ADS

the Board's commitment to public safety in the practice.

NCCAOM & AIT

Military Exemptions

Are you:

- an active member of the armed services,
- a spouse of an active member or recently discharged member or a surviving spouse, or
- a veteran?

You may be eligible for licensing considerations via the **Maryland State Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 or Veterans Auto & Education Improvement Act of 2022.**

For more information about resources check out the State Attorney General's **Military & Veteran Military Resource Guide.**

Did you serve in the military? Do you want the public & professionals to know that you are a Veteran? Stay tuned for more information in the Fall.

Tracking Criminal & Practice Act Violations Nationwide

Did you know that NCCAOM & NPDB track violations of the practice nationwide. Did you know that you should report encounters with the law that are not practice related?.

[NCCAOM List of Practitioners being Tracked for Disciplinary Activity](#)

[National Practitioner Databank for Healthcare Professionals](#)

[Learn more about the Criminal Justice Information Services](#)

Need Help?

Please contact our office - **mdh.acupuncture@maryland.gov** or

supervisors. Some additional training is required. If you have experience treating patients addicted to illegal substances or served as a supervisor in the past, and are willing to serve again please contact the Board. To learn more visit the Board's [ADS page](#).

Interested in Serving on the Board?

The Board of Acupuncture is recruiting for professional members. Applications must be submitted through the Governor's Appointments Office application portal. Interested candidates should visit this page to learn more about the process in advance of submitting an application. If you have already submitted an application it is recommended that you inquire about the status of the past submission or simply submit another application. Visit the Board's [website](#) for more information.

(410)764-4766 if you::

- require a reasonable accommodation,
- need assistance due to limited English proficiency,
- want to submit an application for licensure but don't have a social security or individual taxpayer identification number, or
- have military orders to transfer to Maryland and want to submit an application.

Just for Practitioners

The [Center for a Healthy Maryland](#) produces content focused on practitioners facing life's challenges.

Spring 2025 License Renewal FAQs

Spring Renewal Dates & Costs

The Spring 2025 Renewal Season began on Tuesday, April 1st, for Licensees with a May 31, 2025 expiration date and the online renewal portal is open.

- **Standard Renewal Period** - April 1st - May 31st. Fee- \$551.00
- **Grace/Late Renewal Period** - June 1st - 30th. Fee- \$651.00
- **Reinstatement** - After June 30th. Fee - \$751.00
- **Inactive Status** requests must be received and processed by June 30th. The fee is \$100
- A total of 30 CEUs must be reported for the reporting period of June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2025. If chosen to participate in an Audit Licensees must submit documentation to support the CEUs reported on the renewal application. Audits are now conducted at the end of the renewal period, instead of during the process. If randomly chosen, you will be notified beginning July 1st. For more information about [CEUs](#) and [Audits & Tax Compliance](#) visit the Board's website.
- License renewal is an online only process. **NO** paper applications are accepted.
- ALL payments must be made via credit or debit card (Mastercard or Visa). **NO** checks or money orders are being accepted
- ALL Maryland health professions Licensees **must** comply with the one-time requirement to complete an [implicit bias training course](#).
- The Board ceased printing licenses in 2021. Licensees must visit the [Verify A License](#) page on the Board's website to obtain (download and/or print) immediate proof of renewal. If financially feasible, the Board will mail one (1) printed version of this page (Proof of Practice/License Verification Certificate) after the renewal period ends (only twice per year). **NO** duplicates will be printed.

Obligation to Update Contact Information and Credentials

Licensees are **required** to ensure that the Board has their most up-to-date contact information. The Board is enforcing this requirement and assessing a \$50 fine for failure to comply.

If I asked you the following questions how would you respond?

1. Is Maryland the only State where you hold a license?
2. Have you changed business locations or moved to a new home?
3. Have you changed your name?
4. Is your telephone, fax number and/or email address the same as last renewal season?
5. Have you advanced your academic or specialty credentials?
6. Are you licensed in more than one health profession?

Depending on your response you may need to provide the Board with an update and renewal season is a perfect time to do so. The Board uses contact information to send correspondence to Licensees by email and mail. The Board may also call Licensees from time to time. Please forward all of your updated information to the Board by email, fax or mail.

REMEMBER that you can, and should, distinguish between personal and professional contact information, as the Board is obligated to provide Licensees' professional information - including but not limited to name, address and contact number - in the form of a roster or in response to a Freedom of/Public Information Act upon request. If no business information is provided, the release will default to the Licensees' personal information.

Are You Connected?

Rebrand On Tap for the Maryland Acupuncture Society

The Maryland Acupuncture Society (MAS) is now the Maryland Association of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine (MAAEAM). MAAEAM is branch of the American Society of Acupuncture (ASA) and the practice's professional advocate that "works to promote acupuncture & East Asian medicine, support & represent practitioners, and disseminate information". Visit the website to learn more about membership, the annual conference and to make contact.

March 2025 Newsletter

Leadership Transition

The Board thanks Dr. Tyson for her leadership and partnership, and looks forward to a continued positive engagement with President Burns.

Click To Stay In The Know

ASA Conference

[You still have time to register for the Annual ASA Conference to take advantage of the CEUs & Acupuncture on Capital Hill](#)

In The News

[Acupuncturist promotes 5 needle protocol as opiate addiction treatment](#)

[Which Natural Cures Work](#)

Training

[CE You!](#)

[ACE offers implicit bias training](#)

[Mend Acupuncture Continuing Ed offers weight bias training](#)

MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE

4201 Patterson Avenue, Third Floor
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

Phone: 410-764-4766

Fax: 410-431-3072

E-mail: mdh.acupuncture@maryland.gov

Website: www.health.maryland.gov/bacc

BOARD STAFF

Tiffany L. Smith-Williams, **Executive Director**

Stephanie K. Coley, **Deputy Director/Licensing Coordinator**