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### Board Vacancies

Currently there is 1 vacancy on the Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy for an occupational therapist. In July 2015, there will be 2 vacancies for licensed occupational therapists and 1 vacancy for a consumer member. Per the Annotated Code of Maryland, Title 10-202, Board Membership:

Each licensee member must be a resident of the State at the time of nomination; and, for 3 of the 5 years before appointment, must have been practicing occupational therapy or limited occupational therapy, teaching occupational therapy, or performing research in occupational therapy.

Each consumer member shall be a member of the general public, and may not be or ever have been an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant, or in training to become an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant.

**Email Notification:** As the Board continues to increase its use of available technology, and decrease dependency on the use of paper and postage, email will be the primary source of communication. It is essential that you keep the Board informed of your current email address. If you change your email address, kindly notify the Board. You may specify if you wish this information to be public or private. Please email your current contact information to the Board ([mdotboard.user@maryland.gov](mailto:mdotboard.user@maryland.gov))

## Continuing Education News

NBCOT current certification may be used to meet the State's requirement for continuing education.

**Q: What does this mean to you?**

A: If you maintain NBCOT certification, you don't need any additional continuing competency hours for Maryland licensure.

**Q: What is the NBCOT waiver for continuing competency?**

A: Per the Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy regulations, COMAR 10.46.04.04(C)(2), the Board recognizes maintenance of NBCOT certification as fulfilling the requirements of the State's continuing competency requirements.

**Q: Am I required to maintain NBCOT certification for licensure in Maryland?**

A: No, you have a choice. You may choose to maintain your NBCOT certification, or you may complete the State continuing education requirements which currently are 12 contact hours per year.

**Q: Why is MBOT allowing this waiver?**

A: For the following reasons:

- ◆ The continuing education requirements for NBCOT certification renewal are essentially the same as the Maryland requirements for license renewal; and,
- ◆ The waiver eliminates redundancy for our licensees because the NBCOT requirement is the same as the Maryland requirement; and
- ◆ The waiver streamlines the continuing education course review process adding greater consistency.
- ◆ There is a potential cost savings for licensees in not having to meet different requirements for two separate entities.
- ◆ The waiver enables applicants to qualify for an expedited application review/approval, meaning that when an application for initial licensure, renewal, reactivation, or reinstatement is complete with all of the remaining required documentation, it will qualify for an expedited review because the continuing competency documentation is waived.

**Q: How do I let the Board know my choice, i.e., NBCOT waiver or 12 contact hours?**

A: When you apply for initial licensure, renewal, or reinstatement, there will be an opportunity on the application form to indicate your choice.

### Verify..Verify..Verify

The Board of OT has gone "green", and paper licenses will no longer be issued. Eliminating the paper license reduces fraudulent use of the license document. Real-time verification, via our 24/7 website, reduces the possibility of enabling a licensee to wrongfully practice while under disciplinary sanctions. The Board encourages individuals to verify licensure status on a regular basis. Licensure status can change from one renewal cycle to another or at any time due to disciplinary action. The site, <https://maryland.mylicense.com/mdbotverify/> is updated every hour from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Interesting Stats

3,551	Licenses renewed in 2014
3,510	Renewed online
82%	Utilized NBCOT waiver to satisfy CCR requirement
18%	Chose to comply with the Maryland State's requirements

### Renewal 2014 Follow-Up

Having just finished processing the 2014 license renewals, several issues surfaced that warrant clarification.

- 1) Licenses will no longer be issued when you renew.
- 2) The only way to absolutely be certain that your license renewal was successfully processed on-line is to:

- ◆ Print the confirmation receipt, and
- ◆ VERIFY.... VERIFY... VERIFY licensure status via the Board's website.
- ◆ Make certain that the renewal date has been updated to reflect an expiration date of the NEXT year.

3. Currently, per COMAR 10.46.04.04(A)(3), Maryland licensees can carry over contact hours from one continuing competency time frame to another. All you need to do is send notification to the Board. Email notification is acceptable.