**§805-A. Qualifications for admission to practice**

**1. Certificate of qualification; admission.**  Any person who produces a certificate of qualification from the board recommending that person's admission to the bar may be admitted to practice as an attorney in the courts of this State on motion in open court. A person may not be denied the opportunity to qualify for admission because of actual or perceived race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry or national origin, age or familial status.

[PL 2021, c. 553, §1 (AMD).]

**2. Issuance of certificate of qualification.**  A board of bar examiners shall issue a certificate of qualification stating that the applicant is a person of good moral character and possesses sufficient learning in the law to practice as an attorney in the courts of this State to each applicant who:

A. Produces satisfactory evidence of good moral character.

(1) The fact that an applicant has been convicted as an adult of a crime that is punishable by imprisonment of one year or more in this State or in another state or jurisdiction of the United States raises a presumption that the applicant has not met this requirement. This presumption may be rebutted by proof that a lawful pardon has been obtained, that extraordinary circumstances surrounded the commission of the crime or that a reasonable amount of time has passed since the applicant's conviction and completion of sentence and there is evidence of complete rehabilitation based on the applicant's subsequent history.

(2) Nothing in subparagraph (1) precludes the board or the Supreme Judicial Court from considering a conviction as a basis for disqualification under this paragraph; [PL 1993, c. 643, §1 (AMD).]

B. Attains the passing grades established by the board on those examinations required by the board; and [PL 1985, c. 124, §6 (NEW).]

C. [PL 2023, c. 141, §1 (RP).]

D. Establishes that the applicant has satisfied all of the other requirements under the Maine Bar Admission Rules for the board to issue a certificate of qualification. [PL 2023, c. 141, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 141, §§1, 2 (AMD).]

**3. Admission within one year of passing bar examination.**  An applicant for admission by examination must be admitted to practice within one year from the date that the applicant has been notified of that applicant's passing of the bar examination. This one-year period may be extended by successive one-year periods by a Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court on motion for good cause shown during the period.

[PL 2023, c. 141, §3 (AMD).]

**4. Admission within one year of applying for admission on motion.**  An applicant who is an attorney admitted to practice law in a state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia who meets the requirements for admission on motion under the Maine Bar Admission Rules must be admitted to practice within one year from the date that the board of bar examiners receives the applicant's application. This period may be extended by a 6-month period by the board of bar examiners pursuant to the regulations of the board of bar examiners and then by successive one-year periods by a Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court on motion for good cause shown during the 6-month period or any succeeding one-year period.

[PL 2023, c. 141, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 124, §6 (NEW). PL 1987, c. 395, §A14 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 643, §1 (AMD). RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. B, §23 (COR). PL 2021, c. 553, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 141, §§1-4 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025
. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.