# **Article 87 Board Transition from DOL to DPH Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

# **September 23, 2022**

**Q1: What is** **the Article 87 transition?**

A1: The board that licenses you will transition from the [Division of Occupational Licensure (DOL)](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-occupational-licensure) to the [Department of Public Health](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-health) (DPH), effective late 2022. Your board will move to either the [Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL)](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/bureau-of-health-professions-licensure) or the [Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH)](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/office-of-local-and-regional-health). This transition is part of [Acts of 2021, Chapter 39](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2021/Chapter39), *An Act reorganizing certain licensing agencies of the executive department*, signed into law by Governor Baker in August 2021. It will bring most health licensing boards in the Commonwealth under DPH.

**Q2:** **What boards are affected by the transition and when are they transitioning?**

A2:Boards will move in three different groups, all by the end of 2022:

Group 1: September 2022

* Board of Registration of Chiropractors ​
* Board of Registration of Dieticians and Nutritionists ​
* Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists ​

As part of the **Group 1** transition, new license applications and license renewals will not be available on ePlace from Sunday, September 25-Wednesday, September 28. Licenses will be processed after the Group 1 transition to BHPL starting on Wednesday, September 28 via the new licensing platform.

Group 2: November 2022

* Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians ​
* Board of Registration in Optometry ​
* Board of Registration in Podiatry ​
* Board of Registration of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology ​

Group 3: December 2022

* Board of Allied Health Professionals ​
* Boards of Registration of Psychologists ​
* Board of Registration of Social Workers ​
* Board of Registration of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions
* Registered Sanitarians
* Certified Health Officers

**Q3: How will I, as a licensee, be affected?**

A3: The transition will have no effect on your licensing status, and you can expect minimal change to your interaction with license and application services. However, you will have access to more services online for boards that required paper applications in the past.

**Q4: Will the transition change the application system used for my board?**

A4: As part of this transition, DPH anticipates performing system updates and improvements. The application platform will look different but will have the same functionality. While the system undergoes updates and improvements, there may be limited downtime when initial license processing and license renewal processing is unavailable. We will make every effort to minimize this downtime and its impact on you.

Please visit [mass.gov/dph/board-transition](https://www.mass.gov/dph/board-transition) for more information and updates on the system improvement timelines.

**Q5: Will the transition change the process and requirements needed to complete the license applications?**

A. You are still required to provide all the standard application and credentialing materials as you have been; however, you will be able to do more online in the updated licensing system.

**Q6: Will the phone number/email address I use to reach my board for questions change?**

A6: Please continue to use your board’s current website, email, and phone number until your board transitions. Your individual board’s website will be updated with appropriate contact information closer to its transition date. If you have your board’s website bookmarked on your web browser, please update the bookmark with the new link after your board’s transition date.

**Q7: When I need to renew my license, which system should I use?**

A7: You will receive a renewal notice per your board’s renewal cycle with guidance on renewing your license. Additional instructions will be provided in that notice, but the most important instruction is to renew your license as soon as you receive the renewal coupon.

As your renewal period approaches, please visit [mass.gov/dph/board-transition](https://www.mass.gov/dph/board-transition) for more information.

**Q8: Do I need to have an email address to complete my application?**

A8: Yes, email is required to use the updated system. Providing your email address will allow the board to communicate with you quickly and effectively going forward.

**Q9: I keep getting renewal coupons in the mail. Should I ignore them?**

A9: No, do not ignore your renewal coupon. Renew your license as soon as you receive it.

**Q10: Will the renewal period or expiration date change for my license?**

A10: No, your renewal period and expiration date will not change. We encourage you to renew early to minimize chances that you will be impacted by planned system downtimes.

**Q11: Will I still be able to submit a paper application with my check?**

A11: Yes. However, please remember that mailing and processing time could take several weeks if you are renewing via paper application and sending a physical check. We encourage you to submit any renewal electronically to reduce processing time leading up to the system transition.

If you submit your paper application before your board’s transition date, please mail it to the address on your board’s website or drop off the paper application at 1000 Washington St, Boston, MA.

If you need to submit a paper application after your board’s transition date, please mail it to the attention of your board at the Department of Public Health, 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108, or drop off at 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA.

**Q12: Will fees change?**

A12: There will be no fee changes during the transition.

**Q13: Will regulations and licensing requirements change?**

A13: If the legislature passes any new statutory requirements that impact the renewals or licensing, we will communicate and update accordingly.

**Q14: Where can I learn more about the transition?**

A14: Please visit [mass.gov/dph/board-transition](https://www.mass.gov/dph/board-transition) for more information and updates on the system improvement timelines. Please refer to this website over the coming months for updates.