



Board of Nursing

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 952 – Health Occupations – Internship and Residency Training Requirements – Waiver for Former Service Members Injured in Combat – Letter of Information with Amendments

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (“the Board”) respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for Senate Bill (SB) 952 – Health Occupations – Internship and Residency Training Requirements – Waiver for Former Service Members Injured in Combat. This bill requires certain health occupations boards to waive certain internship or residency training requirements for licensure, certification, or registration for a certain former service member who has successfully completed certain education requirements and passed a certain examination. Additionally, this bill alters the information that certain health occupations boards are required to publish on their website.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are health care providers afforded the ability to practice independently and to the full scope of his/her practice. APRNs within the state of Maryland can own their own clinical practice, prescribe controlled substances, and precept nursing students. Due to their extensive scope of practice and responsibilities, it is critical to ensure that all APRNs are evaluated for competency and meet all education and training requirements to practice independently. The Board believes SB 952 will affect the mentorship requirements APRNs must complete in order to obtain certification to practice.

Title §8-302.1 of the Health Occupations Article requires an applicant for initial certification as an APRN to identify a mentor who will consult and collaborate with the applicant for 18 months. Additionally, the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) requires an APRN graduate to provide to the Board a name of an APRN who will directly supervise the graduate. The mentorship enables the supervising APRN to observe the graduate’s decision making process, confidence in navigating a stressful environment, and adaptability to critical changes.

The Board also believes that if enacted, SB 952 may complicate Maryland’s ability to join the APRN Licensure Compact (LC). The APRN LC works to reduce duplicative licensure for

§ 8-302.1. Advanced Practice Certification.

[https://govt.westlaw.com/mdc/Document/N7B277CF0853011E8BDB393B3CCCAE216?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/mdc/Document/N7B277CF0853011E8BDB393B3CCCAE216?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default))

COMAR Subtitle 27 – Board of Nursing. http://www.dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/subtitle_chapters/10_Chapters.aspx#Subtitle27

APRNs practicing in multiple states and aims to improve and expand access to health care for individuals in underserved communities. The LC rules require an APRN to follow strict education and training requirements to be eligible for multistate licensure privilege. For example, an applicant must have practiced as an APRN for at least 2,080 hours independent from training in school.

The Board would like to propose an amendment for SB 952. The amendment would ensure that individuals applying for the internship and residency training requirement waiver would be evaluated for competency before clinical practice.

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for SB 952.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Iman Farid, Health Policy Analyst, at (410) 585 – 1536 (iman.farid@maryland.gov) or Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 (rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Gary N. Hicks
Board President

The Board respectfully submits the following amendment:

Amendment 1. On pg. 2, line 21 after “REGISTRATION”

;~~AND~~ INCLUDING AN APPROPRIATE COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.