



Board of Nursing

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

March 16, 2021

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

RE: SB 938 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, and Registration – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (“the Board”) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 938 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, and Registration. This bill requires health occupations boards to issue a temporary expedited license, certificate, or registration to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets certain requirements. Applicants of expedited temporary licensure, certification, or registration are required to submit an application providing certain information. Additionally, this bill authorizes health occupations boards to apply to the Secretary of Health for approval of an alternative process for licensure, certification, or registration.

The Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 requires the Board to expedite the licensure, certification, or registration process for applicants. Additionally, when requirements have been met the Board may issue a license, certificate, or registration for a certain period of time. The Board currently issues temporary licenses for a period of 90 days. This license can be extended, under certain circumstances, for an additional 90 days. The Board believes that SB 938 acts to supplement the Veterans Full Employment Act. The most notable changes for the Board being that it must now issue an expedited temporary license for a period of 6 months. Additionally, the Board may apply to the Secretary to approve an alternative process for issuing expedited temporary licenses, certificates, or registrations. This may allow the Board more flexibility with issuing licenses, certificates, or registrations.

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of support for SB 938.

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,

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Gary N. Hicks
Board President

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