



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

January 19, 2021

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chair  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Information - SB 262 - Department of Information Technology - Study of a Common Information Technology Platform for Health Occupations Boards

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 224 - Department of Information Technology - Study of a Common Information Technology Platform for Health Occupations Boards.

MDH believes the boards would benefit from the economies of scale inherent in a common platform. Technology is constantly changing and requires upgrades; one comprehensive statewide system would be easier to maintain. The study would also ensure that vulnerabilities and common technology issues are identified, and lays the foundation for citizen-centric improvements that may allow for greater network adequacy.

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) and MDH have encouraged the concept of a common information technology (IT) platform that would assist in improving the licensing and investigation processes of the health occupation boards for some time. The health occupation boards have generally declined to avail themselves of previous offers by DoIT and MDH to assist them in their IT projects. Specifically, the Maryland Board of Physicians and Board of Nursing (that are statutorily independent units from MDH) have expressed concerns about moving toward a comprehensive system. HB 224 would ensure that an IT audit is completed and that a list of vulnerabilities is developed so that a roadmap can be laid out for potential next steps. Additionally, a study on how a common platform would work for the boards and their licensees, as well as the costs involved with creating the system, may help address the boards' concerns.

Nevertheless, while this study would be important, due to COVID-19 efforts, MDH does not have the financial resources to support the implementation of the study.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at (410) 260-3190 or [webster.ye@maryland.gov](mailto:webster.ye@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Webster Ye". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Webster" being more legible than the last name "Ye".

Webster Ye  
Assistant Secretary