



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ motamembers.org

Committee:	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Bill Number:	Senate Bill 398
Title:	Out-of-State Health Care Practitioners – Provision of Behavioral Health Services via Telehealth – Authorization
Hearing Date:	March 3, 2022
Position:	Oppose

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) opposes *Senate Bill 398 – Out-of-State Health Care Practitioners – Provision of Behavioral Health Services via Telehealth – Authorization*. This bill allows out-of-state providers to provide behavioral health services in Maryland via telehealth. There is no clear definition of behavioral health services and we are concerned that it could cover the services of occupational therapists.

Last session, Maryland took the important step of joining the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. This compact will allow occupational therapists to provide services between member states. Unlike Senate Bill 398, the compact sets clear expectations and guidelines for member states and participating providers. For example, the compact includes a process of boards in different states to conduct joint investigations, which is not included in Senate Bill 398. Although we recognize the importance of interstate practice, we believe that Senate Bill 398 lacks the many patient protections that exist in the compact.

We ask for an unfavorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net.