



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 1, 2022

Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chairman, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland Senate
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis MD 21401-1912

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

Senate Bill 230, before your committee on February 1, 2022, is a valuable measure to increase the number of available health occupation practitioners available with the State. This measure allows the health occupation boards to issue a full or temporary expedited license, certification or registration to a service member, veteran or military spouse **if they meet the requirements**. The health occupations board would issue the credential in an expedited fashion after receiving a completed application. The temporary license will be valid for six months. But you are missing the boat!

This is a good bill, especially in the midst of a critical shortage of nurses in Maryland. However, the Coalition has two recommendations: 1. Please **change the term "armed forces" to uniformed services**. As you know there are eight Uniformed Services, but only six "armed forces": five under the Department of Defense—the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and the Space Force; and the sixth, the Coast Guard, belongs to the Department of Homeland Security. You are forgetting the active-duty members of NOAA and the U.S. Public Health Service and their spouses. There are significant numbers of both of these services in our state, and they should be included in the text of this bill. I know...I represent the 1200 PHS officers who live in Maryland on the Coalition. 2. In addition, please reconsider and **remove the bill's restriction on "veterans"** which is currently limited to retirement within the year of their application, especially in light of current critical nursing shortages if you are attempting to improve the number of available practitioners in the state. Often the first year of retirement is "the honeymoon", most don't retirees don't make the decision to get a follow-on job until we have had a little bit of time to attack the "to do" list.

The Maryland Military Coalition, is a voluntary, non-partisan organization representing 18 veteran service organizations who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men and women and their families. The Coalition strongly supports Senate Bill 230 and asks for your favorable report. Thank you to Senator Jackson for sponsoring this important legislation.

Yours, respectfully

Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPTAIN (Ret.), U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director

1101 Mercantile Lane, Suite 260 • Largo, Maryland 20774
(301) 583-8687 • (800) 808-4517


Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition



Air Force Sergeants Association


American Military Society


American Minority Veterans Research Project



Association of the United States Navy



Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

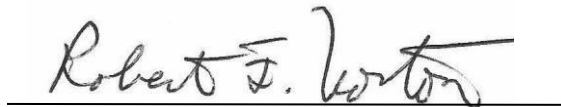

Disabled American Veterans



Distinguished Flying Cross Association


Fleet Reserve Association


Jewish War Veterans of the USA


Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association


Military Officers Association of America



Military Order of the Purple Heart


National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Reserve Organization of America


Society of Military Widows


Veterans of Foreign Wars