



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill:** House Bill 1130 – Health Occupations - Prohibition on Expiration of Licenses, Certificates, Permits, and Registrations

**Hearing Date:** March 3, 2022

**Position:** Support with Technical Amendment

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The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 1130 – Health Occupations - Prohibition on Expiration of Licenses, Certificates, Permits, and Registrations* with a technical amendment. This bill license and certification expiration dates under the health occupations board until the Maryland Department of Health is able to fully address the December 4, 2021 data breach.

Since the data breach last December, nurses have been experiencing delays in renewing their licenses and certifications. The Board has been able to implement work arounds but there is still a large backlog of renewals and initial applications. Following the data breach, the Governor did issue a state of emergency in order to extend the expiration of nursing licenses and certifications but that extension expired on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Passing this bill will ensure that the current nursing shortage is not exacerbated by delays in license renewals.

We ask for a technical amendment to ensure smooth implementation of the bill. The amendments extend the licensure expiration period to 30 days after the information technology systems to have been restored to allow time for backlogs have been restored. that providers are notified that they need to renew their license once the data breach is addressed:

On page 1, line 21 after “until” insert “30 days after”

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide additional information, please contact Scott Tiffin at [stiffin@policypartners.net](mailto:stiffin@policypartners.net).