



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
House Bill 1130: Health Occupations - Prohibition on Expiration of
Licenses, Certificates, Permits, and Registrations
March 3, 2022
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for House Bill 1130. HFAM represents over 170 skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as nearly 80 associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our skilled nursing members provide the majority of long-term and post-acute care to Marylanders in need.

House Bill 1130 prohibits licenses, certificates, permits, and registrations issued before December 4, 2021 by the health occupations boards from expiring and requires that they remain effective until the Department of Information Technology restores the systems and servers of the health occupations boards that were impacted by the cybersecurity attack on the Maryland Department of Health (MDH).

In December 2021, the MDH website was taken offline for a period of time after a cyberattack. This impacted the services, resources, and system operations of departments and boards within MDH. HFAM has stood in support of our partners at MDH and understands the challenges brought by this attack, as well as the need for an abundance of caution as systems are brought back online.

We have worked closely with the Department and the Maryland Board of Nursing (MBON) to share communication and updates with the long-term and post-acute care provider community. In January 2022, along with our colleague associations, we hosted a webinar with the Board of Nursing to update the sector on the operational status of the Board given the cyber incident.

MDH, MBON, and other health occupations boards are continuing to rebuild following the cyberattack that occurred in December 2021. I personally and professionally have high confidence in MBON Executive Director Karen Evans and her team – they have been engaged and thoughtful partners.

Due to the cyber incident, there has been a significant backlog the ability to processes new and renewal licensure applications. Given the workforce challenges that our sector and others face, it is critical that we ensure we do not lose healthcare professionals due to the inability to renew their license or certificate.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report from the Committee on House Bill 1130.

Submitted by:

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