



Board of Nursing

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

February 16, 2022

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Room 101 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 676 – Handgun Permits – Qualifications – High Risk Occupations – Letter of Information with Amendments

Dear Chair Clippinger and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for House Bill (HB) 676 – Handgun Permits – Qualifications – High Risk Occupations. This bill requires the Secretary of State Police to issue a certain permit to carry, wear, or transport a handgun to a person who meets certain requirements and is employed in a certain profession.

The Board believes it is imperative for nursing personnel to have the ability to protect themselves from any act of physical violence, harassment, intimidation or other threatening, disruptive behavior from patients, the patient’s family members, and external individuals. Healthcare workers often do not stay confined within the walls of a hospital or facility, where there may be policies to mitigate workplace violence. Many frontline staff venture into unfamiliar neighborhoods to deliver home health care to the most vulnerable patients. Nursing personnel can be targeted as they may carry valuable medications and equipment to aid in delivering treatment. The Board is in favor of requiring training amongst other elements, but believes that only nursing individuals with an active, unencumbered license or certificate should be eligible to carry, wear, or transport a handgun.

The bill as written, could allow nursing individuals with unresolved disciplinary records to be eligible to carry, wear, or transport a handgun. These individuals may not meet the prohibitive criteria stated in the bill and therefore could still retain eligibility. The Board believes this could endanger the public’s safety. An individual with an active, unencumbered license or certificate has met all educational and professional requirements to be employed in the state of Maryland. For example, a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) is required to meet all renewal requirements under 10.27.01.13, Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)¹. These individuals shall renew biannually not later than the 28th day of the licensee’s birth month. An RN or LPN applying for active renewal shall show evidence of 1,000 hours of active nursing practice or graduation from an approved nursing program within 5 years immediately preceding the date of renewal application. An RN or LPN applying for active licensure renewal who does

¹ COMAR 10.27.01.13 – Renewal of License.

not meet the requirements shall be required to successfully complete a Board-approved refresher program or Board-approved preceptorship program prior to renewal of the license. Practicing registered nursing or licensed practical nursing on an expired license is prohibited and subject to discipline under Health Occupations Article, §8-316(a), Annotated Code of Maryland².

The Board respectfully submits the following amendments for your consideration.

Section 5-306. On page 3. Lines 10 and 11. Remove:

**[I. A NURSE; OR]
[J. A NURSE PRACTITIONER.]**

Section 5-306. On page 3. Line 10. Add:

I. ANY INDIVIDUAL LICENSED OR CERTIFIED UNDER TITLE 8 WHO HOLDS AN ACTIVE, UNENCUMBERED LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE IN GOOD STANDING.

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for HB 676.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Iman Farid, Health Policy Analyst, at (410) 585 – 1536 (iman.farid@maryland.gov) or Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 (rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Gary N. Hicks
Board President

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

² Section 8-316. Denials, Reprimands, Suspensions, and Revocations – Grounds; Additional Monetary Penalty; Surrender of Suspended or Revoked License; Publication of Notice of Revocation or Suspension.