



# Board of Pharmacy

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

Jennifer L. Hardesty, Board President – Deena Speights-Napata, Executive Director

March 3, 2022

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: House Bill 1130 – Health Occupations – Prohibitions on Expiration of Licenses, Certificates, Permits, and Registrations - Letter of Concern**

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Concern for House Bill (HB) 1130 – Health Occupations – Prohibition on Expiration of Licenses, Certificates, Permits, and Registrations.

HB 1130 will prohibit the expiration of any license, registration, or permit issued by the Board of Pharmacy prior to December 4, 2021, until the Department of Information Technology notifies the Department of Legislative Services that it has restored the systems and servers of the health occupations boards that were impacted by the breach of the Maryland Department of Health’s multi-network infrastructure systems and servers.

The Board is concerned that HB 1130 will severely impact its ability to perform essential functions. Following the December 4, 2021 cybersecurity incident, the Board suspended the expiration date of any license, registration, or permit upon receipt of a substantial application for renewal. This procedure allowed pharmacy professionals to continue practicing and remain current with continuing education requirements, and provided the Board with notice of an individual’s or entity’s intent of renewal. Notice is important as it has a cascading effect on compliance, investigations, and inspections. Shortly after the incident, the Board resumed renewing licenses, registrations, and permits pursuant to work-around protocols that have been developed and documented by Board leadership. Currently, the Board has access to its processing platforms and is able to issue renewals in the same manner as before the December 4, 2021 cybersecurity incident.

HB 1130 will require the Board to stop normal renewal operations until the Department of Information Technology notifies the Department of Legislative Services that it has restored the systems and servers of health occupation boards that were impacted by the cybersecurity attack.

HB 1130 will interfere with Board operations unnecessarily and may encourage a lack of adherence to continuing education requirements, which are necessary to ensure public safety.

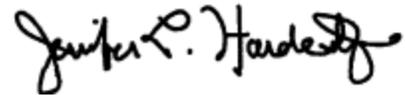
The Board recommends that HB 1130 is **amended** to exclude health occupations boards that have returned to normal operations with regards to renewals for licenses, certificates, permits, and registrations.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at [deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov](mailto:deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov) / (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,



Deena Speights-Napata, MA  
Executive Director



Jennifer L. Hardesty,  
PharmD, FASCP  
President