



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

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: House Bill 112 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the “Board”) is submitting this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 112 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

HB 112 would require the Board to create a new class of expedited temporary (valid for six months after issuance) license, registration, and permit for a service member, veteran, or military spouse. The temporary license, registration, or permit requires (1) proof of an application for full licensure, certification, registration, or permitting and (2) would expire six months after issuance. HB 112 would allow a service member, veteran, or military spouse to practice pharmacy while they complete the requirements for licensure, certification, registration, or permitting in Maryland.

The Board’s current licensure, registration, and permitting process is completed within one week if a complete application is received. Currently, the Board does not issue a temporary license, registration, or permit to any applicant. Creating and issuing temporary licenses, registrations, and permits would be a huge administrative burden to the Board.

Additionally, House Bill 225 Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 requires all Health Occupations Boards to expedite the licensing process for veterans, military spouses, and active-duty services members. *See* Md. Code Ann., Health Occ., §§ 1-701 – 706. The Board is in full compliance with HB 225 and has posted an informational notice on its website regarding the law. The Board provides application assistance to covered persons that submit a request.

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

The Board supports full employment of veterans; however, creating a new class of expedited temporary permits would not provide substantial benefits to covered persons and would create administrative burdens for the Board.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov / (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deena Speights-Napata". The signature is written in a cursive style with some vertical lines separating the first and last names.

Deena Speights-Napata, MA
Executive Director

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