



Board of Acupuncture

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2022 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 120

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: Support

TITLE: Acupuncture Licensure Requirements

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill will amend the State Acupuncture Board’s (the “Board”) statute, Health Occupations Article §1A-302, to mandate that all future applicants for acupuncture licensure pass the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) exam as part of their licensure requirements.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board supports Senate Bill (SB) 120. Currently, applicants can apply for acupuncture licensure by either graduating from an accredited acupuncture school **or** passing the national examination. Acupuncturists are the only health professionals in Maryland who do not have to pass a national certification exam as part of their licensure requirements. The proposal will require **both** the exam and the appropriate education for applicants licensed after June 1, 2026. This will make licensure requirements for Maryland equivalent to other acupuncturist applicants around the country and other health occupations in Maryland. Forty-eight states have testing that assesses basic knowledge and performance in their field. After carefully weighing the current requirements and examining national standards, the Board believes that the NCCAOM exam should be mandated and that passage of the exam would communicate an objective evaluation of each practitioner's basic knowledge of acupuncture and would better demonstrate its concern for public safety. Additionally, the acupuncture profession is standardizing all aspects of licensure, nationwide, to make reciprocity more available.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. The Board respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 120. If you have any additional questions, please contact Board Chair Brandie Armijo at 240-393-1522 or brandie.armijo@kp.org.