



Board of Nursing

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

March 3, 2022

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

RE: HB 1130 – Health Occupations – Prohibition on Expiration of Licenses, Certificates, Permits, and Registrations – Letter of Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for House Bill (HB) 1130 – Health Occupations – Prohibition on Expiration of Licenses, Certificates, Permits, and Registrations. This bill prohibits licenses, certificates, permits, and registrations issued before a certain date from expiring and requires that they remain effective until the Department of Information Technology restores the systems and servers that were impacted by the cybersecurity attack on the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). This bill additionally requires the Department of Information Technology to notify the Department of Legislative Services within a certain number of days after restoring all of the systems and services.

The Board strongly supports the legislature's efforts to temporarily relax licensure and certification expiration as MDH systems and servers are restored. The dedication of staff in the licensing and information technology departments has allowed the Board to process initial and renewal applications received from December 4, 2021, and onwards, which were previously inaccessible due to the cybersecurity incident. As such, the Board no longer has a backlog of applications. The Board's electronic systems are now operational and staff continue to process incoming electronic applications within three (3) to five (5) business days once all the required documentation is received. The Board, however, is concerned with the anticipated influx of applications from individuals who did not renew their license or certification within the time of the cybersecurity incident. The Board respectfully requests an amendment that will allow all health occupations boards (HOB) to have a thirty (30) to forty-five (45) day grace period to process any applications received and issue licenses and certificates as necessary.

The Board respectfully submits an additional amendment to limit certain individuals who had expired and were inactive prior to the cybersecurity incident from renewing their license or certificate. These individuals will instead need to apply for reinstatement.

On page 1. Lines 18 – 19.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the licenses, certificates, permits, and registrations issued **AND ACTIVE ON OR** before December 4, 2021...

For the reasons discussed above, the Maryland Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for HB 1130.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Hicks", written in a cursive style.

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.