



Board of Physicians

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Damean W.E. Freas, D.O., Chair

2022 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: HB 1130 – Health Occupations – Prohibition on Expiration of Licenses, Certificates, Permits and Registrations
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Support with Amendments

TITLE: Health Occupations – Prohibition on Expiration of Licenses, Certificates, Permits and Registrations

POSITION & RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is submitting this letter of support with amendments for House Bill 1130 – Health Occupations – Prohibition of Expiration of Licenses, Certificates, Permits and Registrations.

The network incident that occurred on December 4, 2021 was a major blow to the already struggling healthcare workforce in Maryland. The Board supports all efforts to protect those licensees who were impacted by it, and appreciates that HB 1130 takes steps to do just that.

Thankfully, the Board of Physicians was fortunate enough to remain operational throughout the security incident. The Board currently processes applications for licensure via an online form that was able to remain in operation even without access to the Maryland Department of Health’s multi-network infrastructure. By Monday, December 6, less than 48 hours after the incident, the Board was issuing and renewing licenses on its usual timeline. In addition, the Board’s staggered renewal schedule meant there was only a small volume of license renewal requests at the time of the attack.

The Board recommends amending HB 1130 so that it specifically focuses on those licensees who were directly impacted by the network security incident. While the Board appreciates the support HB 1130 would provide to its licensees, preventing licenses from lapsing (even on a temporary basis) can create issues with oversight and credentialing. The Board’s website is used as a primary source for licensure verification by insurance companies, healthcare providers and multiple credentialing agencies, as well as other states. As a result, extending license expiration dates can create issues with hospital and other credentialing processes.

Therefore, the Board recommends that the Committee adopt the following amendment:

Amendment 1

The Board recommends inserting the following language on page 1, line 20 after the word
“Article:” **THAT WERE DELAYED OR IMPACTED BY THE CYBERSECURITY ATTACK**

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Matthew Dudzic, Manager
of Policy and Legislation, Maryland Board of Physicians, 410-764-5042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Damean W. E. Freas".

Damean W. E. Freas, D.O.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

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