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Government Operations and
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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Health and Government Operations Committee

HB 453 State Board of Physicians – Inactive and Emeritus Status

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

SUPPORT

WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

Currently a Maryland physician who retires is on an inactive status. Many doctors continue to renew their license to hold on to the title. This legislation will give doctors an opportunity to have a retired status. It would establish an emeritus status for individuals licensed to practice medicine.

WHAT PROBLEM ARE WE TRYING TO SOLVE?

Workforce shortages are difficult to determine with the currently available data. The HGO Committee recently had a briefing from the Workforce Data Advisory Group on the shortages for each of the critical health care occupations. We really have no idea how many physicians are “retired” but still renewing their license to keep their professional name. Establishing an emeritus status would give us a more accurate picture of physicians who are practicing medicine.

These physicians have dedicated their lives to Maryland patients, and we know the physician community will support having additional licensure options including the ability to maintain their professional title. If a doctor wanted to come back and practice, they could do that if they met the requirements.

This additional licensure option establishing an emeritus status would allow doctors to feel more comfortable in retiring and it would give us accurate data of doctors who are actively practicing medicine.

Should there be a health crisis or emergency, HB 453 will allow the Maryland Department of Health to engage retired physicians. Currently the Board of Physicians has no idea of how many retired physicians there are and how to contact them. This will improve the data base for a very critical occupation.

Please vote in favor of HB 453