



Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 6, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 717 – State Board of Nursing – Peer Advisory Committees, Scopes of Practice, and Licensure Requirements – Letter of Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for House Bill 717 – State Board of Nursing – Peer Advisory Committees, Scopes of Practice, and Licensure Requirements. This bill authorizes the State Board of Nursing to appoint peer advisory committees to provide advice related to midwifery; authorizes nurse – midwives and licensed certified midwives to personally prepare and dispense a starter dosage of certain drugs; authorizes nurse – midwives and licensed certified midwives to delegate certain tasks to certified medication technicians and certified nursing assistants under certain circumstances; alters the exceptions to the certified midwifery licensure requirement and the qualifications required for a license; and requires the Department of Health, in consultation with stakeholders, to develop recommendations to expand access to birthing services in birthing centers.

The practice of midwifery encompasses a full range of primary health care services for women from adolescence beyond menopause. Midwives work in partnership with women to provide the necessary support, care, and advice during pregnancy, labor, delivery, and the postpartum period. Their responsibilities may include antenatal education and preparation for parenthood, monitoring preventative measures for both mother and child, detecting complications, and accessing medical care or other appropriate assistance in the case of an emergency.

House Bill 758 and Senate Bill 684, introduced during the 2021 legislative session, established a new discipline of midwifery to include licensed certified midwives (CM). This license allows an individual to attend a midwifery education program without first having obtained a registered nurse (RN) license. The individual receives the same midwifery education and clinical experience as a certified nurse midwife and must pass the nationally recognized examination. The Board supports the proposed amendments to the licensed certified midwifery statute, as they will further aid the state in increasing the number of healthcare professionals authorized to practice midwifery.

The Board respectfully submits additional amendments to further clarify the terms and duties of nurse – midwives and licensed certified midwives, as outlined in House Bill 717.

On page 2. Lines 14 – 15. Amend definition of “midwife”

(2) A “MIDWIFE” MEANS:

(1) A REGISTERED NURSE WHO IS [A LICENSED NURSE] CERTIFIED AS A NURSE – MIDWIFE; OR

(2) A LICENSED CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

On page 4. Lines 10 – 15. Remove language related to delegation:

(1) Has completed a Board – approved medication technician training program; {and} **AND**

(2) Is certified by the Board as a medication technician [; **AND**

(3) PERFORMS MEDICATION TECHNICIAN TASKS DELEGATED BY A REGISTERED NURSE, LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE, OR LICENSED CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.]

On page 4. Lines 17 – 22. Remove language related to delegation:

(1) Means an individual regardless of title who [, **FOR COMPENSATION,**] routinely performs {nursing;} **NURSING**

[(I) NURSING] tasks delegated by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse {for compensation} [; **OR**

(II) TECHNICAL TASKS DELEGATED BY A LICENSED CERTIFIED MIDWIFE] ; and

On page 8. Lines 6 – 7. Amend language related to midwifery education:

(4) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS GRADUATED FROM A GRADUATE LEVEL ACCREDITED PROGRAM FOR [AN APPROVED CLINICAL] MIDWIFERY EDUCATION APPROVED BY ACME [EXPERIENCE] AND WHO IS:

For the reasons discussed above, the Maryland Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for HB 717.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Hicks', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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.