



Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 285 - Family Law - Custody Evaluators - Qualifications and Training

Hearing Date: February 9, 2023

Position: Favorable with Amendments

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 285– Family Law – Custody Evaluators – Qualifications and Training*. The bill establishes parameters for who is qualified to evaluate children to advise the court in custody determinations. The bill stems from the recommendations of the Workgroup to Study Child Custody Court Proceedings Involving Child Abuse or Domestic Violence Allegations, which was established by SB 567 in the 2019 session.

We would ask for a clarifying amendment as there are two types of advance practice registered nurses who have the qualifications delineated in the bill:

On page 2 after line 18, add

(VII) A MARYLAND CERTIFIED PSYCHIATRIC-MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER OR CERTIFIED PSYCHIATRIC-MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER WITH AN EQUIVALENT LEVEL OF CERTIFICATION IN ANY OTHER STATE; OR

(VIII) A MARYLAND CERTIFIED CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST OR CERTIFIED CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST WITH AN EQUIVALENT LEVEL OF CERTIFICATION IN ANY OTHER STATE;

We ask for a favorable report with our clarifying amendments. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.