



Board of Physicians

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D., Chair

2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: SB 218 - Physicians and Allied Health Professions - Reorganization and Revisions
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Letter of Support

TITLE: Physicians and Allied Health Professions – Reorganization and Revisions

POSITION & RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is submitting this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 218 - Physicians and Allied Health Professions - Reorganization and Revisions. SB 218 would restructure the Maryland Medical Practice Act (the Act) to create a general provisions section for provisions that apply to all licensees regulated by the Board and would eliminate inconsistent or redundant language.

The Board currently regulates 13 health occupations, each of which has its own unique standards and requirements. However, many provisions remain consistent across every provider type regulated by the Board. For example, every single health occupation regulated by the Board has the same reporting requirements for change of address. As a result, there is a significant amount of redundant or duplicative language within the Act.

During the 2020 legislative session, HB 560 and SB 395 (State Board of Physicians and Allied Health Advisory Committees – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation) passed as emergency bills and were enacted on May 8, 2020. Section 5 of this legislation required that the Board submit to the legislature a report with recommendations for improving consistency of language between practitioners regulated and eliminating redundant language in the Act. The Board submitted the report in June 2021.

As recommended in the report, SB 218 consolidates provisions that apply to all Board licensees but that are currently repeated into several locations within the Act. Language for provisions such as reporting change of address, criminal history record check requirements and terms of licensure are relocated to one new “General Provisions” section to apply to all licensees. In addition, SB 218 standardizes the language used throughout the Act to improve consistency.

SB 218 is solely a restructuring bill and does not alter any licensing requirements or standards, nor does it alter current Board practices or operations. All current policies and procedures will remain the same. Instead, SB 218 ensures that common provisions are easily accessible in a centralized location within the statute, and eliminates inconsistent, repetitive or redundant language. The end result is a cleaner, more easily accessible Medical Practice Act.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Matthew Dudzic, Manager of Policy and Legislation, 410-764-5042 or Madeline DelGreco, Health Policy Analyst, 443-591-9082.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harbhajan Ajrawat".

Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D.
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.