



Board of Physicians

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

2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: HB 757 State Board of Physicians – Supervised Medical Graduates and Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists (Bridge to Medical Residency Act)
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Letter of Support

BILL ANALYSIS:

House Bill (HB) 757 proposes that the Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) authorize Supervised Medical Graduates to perform delegated duties under direct supervision and in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of Physicians.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Support for House Bill (HB) 757 State Board of Physicians – Supervised Medical Graduates and Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists (Bridge to Medical Residency Act). The Board supports initiatives that aim to integrate qualified individuals into the struggling healthcare workforce in a scope that benefits their education and training.

HB 757 has similar aims to the current statute and regulation (Health Occupations § 14-306 and COMAR 10.32.12), where licensed physicians are permitted to delegate specific medical acts to unlicensed individuals. These unlicensed individuals include Assistants and Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists (RCIS), who are currently able to perform technical acts that align with national medical standards and site-specific policies and procedures in specific categories. The Board supports implementing similar regulations for Supervised Medical Graduates to align with this practice.

The Board has been unable to calculate how many medical graduates in Maryland would be affected by this legislation. However, data has shown that in 2023, there were 14 unfilled residency positions in Maryland. Since there may be a relatively small number of medical graduates affected by this bill, regulations are the most cost-effective and streamlined method of addressing Supervised Medical Graduates, and the Board supports addressing the practice of Supervised Medical Graduates in regulations as proposed in HB 757.

The Board would like to note that in its current form, HB 757 is listed as an emergency bill set to take effect on the date of its enactment. HB 757 will require the Board to develop and promulgate regulations, which requires stakeholder input and substantial time and resources. Therefore, if HB 757 passes as emergency legislation, the Board would appreciate guidance regarding an appropriate timeline for developing these regulations.

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 "Singh 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.