



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

**Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care
Program Professionals**
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Phone: 410-764-5996

**2020 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: HB 1108
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Support

**TITLE: HB 1108 – State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program
Professionals - Revisions**

BILL ANALYSIS: HB 1108 (bill) will allow the State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals (Board) to maintain an electronic roster of all individuals certified by the Board. The bill seeks to revise the issuance of paper licenses to electronic online verification of all individuals certified by the Board through its website.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board supports HB 1108. The bill applies to individuals certified by the Board. It includes Residential Child Care Program Administrators and Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioners that are employed in Maryland’s residential child care programs to deliver therapeutic residential care to youth served in group homes licensed by the Maryland Department of Health, Department of Juvenile Services, and Department of Human Services throughout Maryland. Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioners perform the direct responsibilities related to activities of daily living, self-help, and socialization skills in a residential child care program under the direction of a Certified Residential Child Care Program Administrator for Maryland’s most vulnerable youth. Currently there are 1156 certified Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioners and 72 Certified Residential Child Care Program Administrators.

The Board was established in 2004 and operates under the provisions of Title 20 of the Health Occupations Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. In 2007, the Board’s funding transitioned into General Funds. The mission of the Board is to protect children living in Maryland’s residential child care programs and to promote quality of care in the field of residential child care through:

- 1.) Certifying and regulating Residential Child Care Program Administrators and Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioners;
- 2.) Receiving and resolving complaints from the public, licensing authorities, courts, employers, insurance companies, other certificate holders regarding Residential Child Care Program Administrators and Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioners who may have violated the practice act and its regulations; and
- 3.) Setting the standards for Residential Child Care Program Administrators and Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioners that reflect new and emergent developments in the profession.

The Board supports the revision in this bill to include electronic online verification. It will allow the Board staff to use electronic forms whenever possible, and avoid printing out paper. This revision will save time, money and space. Licensees will be allowed to access their license within a short turn around, with quicker access to their certificate number. The electronic online verification will not have any additional costs to licensee or to the Board. This administrative function platform is effectively being used by several other Health Occupation Boards. Additionally, licensees without access to the Board's website will still be able to contact the Board to verify a certificate and receive paper certificates.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. The Board respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1108 so that Maryland's children can continue to receive high quality professional licensed staff in residential programs providing services to meet their needs in order to become productive members of society.

For more information, please contact the Board's Executive Director, Darlene Ham at (410) 764-5991 or Darlene.ham1@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.