



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

Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

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March 6, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

RE: HB 1486 Public Health – Non-Controlled Dangerous Substance Prescription Record System Program – Letter of Support with Amendment

Dear Chair Pendergrass:

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners is submitting this letter of support with amendments for HB 1486 Public Health – Non-Controlled Dangerous Substance Prescription Record System Program

The bill establishes the Non-Controlled (NCDS) Dangerous Substance Prescription Record System Program to be implemented by the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC). This program would collect in one place all non-controlled dangerous substance prescriptions that have been prescribed for a patient. The purpose of this program is to improve patient safety and reduce health care costs by allowing a prescriber to access the NCDS prescription drug history of a patient, including drugs prescribed by other prescribers. The data from this new program would be stored in a secure, free, State-designated health information exchange. Consumers will receive notice of the program, a description of the program, with whom their information will be shared, an opportunity to opt out on a designated website, and any additional information as required by MHHC. Additionally, an Advisory Committee will be established to provide clinical and operational recommendations to MHCC in the development and implementation of the program.

The Dental Board supports HB 1486 with amendments. The bill addresses concerns that the medical community has regarding a patient's prescription record. Most patients see multiple physicians, and other health care professionals, who prescribe medications for them without knowing what other medications may have been prescribed. This is a common problem for the elderly who may not remember, or may not see the importance of disclosing, all the medications that have been prescribed for them. This has led to drug interactions that could have been prevented if the prescriber had access to the patient's full prescription record.

It appears that the Non-Controlled Dangerous Substance Prescription Record System Program reflects good public policy and addresses concerns regarding educating patients and securing data. The Advisory Committee under MHCC would provide clinical and operational recommendations to MHCC as the program develops and is maintained. The Board of Dental Examiners supports this initiative with the inclusion of a licensed dentist on the Advisory Committee. Dentists frequently prescribe medications to support various dental procedures and have valuable information and experience to contribute to the Advisory Committee. Dentists would certainly embrace having access to their patients' prescription records.

For the above reasons the Board supports HB 1486 with the following amendments:

On page 8, after line 2, insert:

21-2D-06(C)(1)

**“(VII) ONE DENTIST LICENSED AND PRACTICING IN THE STATE,
NOMINATED BY THE MARYLAND STATE DENTAL ASSOCIATION;**

[VII] (VIII) – [XII] (XIII).”

The opinion of the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners expressed in this support with amendments position does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

I hope that this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Dr. James Goldsmith at 301-367-2352, jgoldsm217@comcast.net, or Dr. Arpana Verma, the Board's Legislative Committee Chair at 240-498-8159, asverma93@gmail.com. In addition, the Board's Executive Director, Mr. Frank McLaughlin, may be reached at 443-878-5253, frank.mclaughlin@maryland.gov.