



# Board of Nursing

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West Miller Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: SB 568 – Health Care Practitioners – Telehealth – Out of State Health Care Practitioners – Letter of Support with Amendments**

Dear Chair Pinsky:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (“the Board”) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for SB 568 – Health Care Practitioners – Telehealth – Out of State Health Care Practitioners. This bill authorizes an out-of-state health care practitioner to provide telehealth services to a patient located within the State. This bill requires a health occupations board to register an out-of-state health care practitioner to provide telehealth services. Additionally, this bill requires a health occupations board to publish information about out-of-state health care practitioners that are registered to provide telehealth services.

The Board commends and fully supports any action that responsibly increases access to health care to the underserved and disadvantaged. The Board believes that the intent of SB 568 is to supplement the already present Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). The NLC, adopted in 1999 by Maryland, works to: (1) reduce duplicative licensure for nurses practicing in multiple states, (2) facilitate the exchange of information between party states in the areas of nurse regulation, investigation, and adverse actions, (3) promote compliance with the laws governing the practice of nursing in each jurisdiction, and (4) ultimately improve and expand access to health care for individuals in underserved communities.

The NLC has been enacted in 34 states, some of which include Maryland’s neighbors: Virginia, West Virginia, and Delaware. There are also a number of states in the process of adopting legislation for the NLC, one of which include Pennsylvania. The NLC provides a structured and regulated system in allowing out-of-state nurses to practice in Maryland. The establishment of the NLC has proven to be effective in improving health care access for all communities in Maryland.

The Board understands that SB 568 intends to expand access to healthcare for all Marylanders. With the presence of not only the NLC but other interstate compacts in Maryland, the Board would like to propose an amendment. The amendment would exclude out-of-state health care

[1] NLC States. June 2019. [https://www.ncsbn.org/NLC\\_Map\\_Updated\\_June\\_2019.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/NLC_Map_Updated_June_2019.pdf)

[2] Subtitle 7a – Nurse Licensure Compact. West Law.

[https://govt.westlaw.com/mdc/Browse/Home/Maryland/MarylandCodeCourtRules?guid=NDB38EBE056CB11E78615AB6B6B131AF6&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=Default&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/mdc/Browse/Home/Maryland/MarylandCodeCourtRules?guid=NDB38EBE056CB11E78615AB6B6B131AF6&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default))

practitioners who may already be authorized to practice in Maryland under the terms of a valid interstate compact, from following the provisions of this bill.

The Board respectfully submits the following amendment:

Amendment 1. On page 6. Add new section 1-1007 under subtitle 10 of the Health Occupations Article, which would read as follows:

**THIS SUBTITLE SHALL NOT APPLY TO AN OUT-OF-STATE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER THAT IS, OR IS ELIGIBLE TO BE, LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE STATE UNDER THE TERMS OF A VALID INTERSTATE COMPACT TO WHICH THE STATE OF MARYLAND IS A PARTY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT, THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMAPCT, [ADD ANY OTHER INSTERSTATE COMPACTS TO WHICH THE STATE OF MARYLAND IS CURRENTLY A PARTY].**

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for SB 568.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Iman Farid, Health Policy Analyst, at (410) 585 – 1536 ([iman.farid@maryland.gov](mailto:iman.farid@maryland.gov)) or Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 ([rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov](mailto:rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov)).

Sincerely,



Gary N. Hicks  
Board President

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