



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

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Committee: Health and Government Operations

Bill Number: House Bill 224

Title: Department of Information Technology – Study of a Common Information Technology Platform for Health Occupation Boards

Hearing Date: January 14, 2021

Position: Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 224 – Department of Information Technology – Study of a Common Information Technology Platform for Health Occupations Boards*. This bill would require the Department of Information Technology to conduct a review of the information technology platforms used by the health occupation boards and make recommendations regarding creating a common IT platform.

We appreciate the efforts the Board of Occupational Therapy Practice has made in recent years to update its technology capabilities. This includes moving the licensing application and renewal processes from paper to electronic formats. That said, we believe that reviewing the IT platforms of all of the health occupation boards, including Occupational Therapy Practice, may highlight some best practices in managing licensing data and establish recommendations to improve the functioning of the boards. This includes the ability to pull aggregate data. As an example, in 2020, the Board of Occupational Therapy Practice was unable to provide the number of licensees by local jurisdiction, even though the Board should have an address on record for all licensees.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.