

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

Board of Occupational Therapy Practice

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2021 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: HB 540 COMMITTEE: Health and Government Affairs POSITION: Support

TITLE: Interstate Occupational Therapy License Compact

<u>BILL ANALYSIS</u>: This bill allows the Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice (the "Board") to join an interstate license compact.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Board is in support of HB 540. During the age of telehealth, and while this country is experiencing a pandemic, it is essential for occupational therapists (OTs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) to treat patients in states that are in need of OTs and OTAs. The Board has spoken to other Boards who are participating in compacts and believe that the positives greatly outweigh any negatives that may come from joining a compact.

The Board feels assured that any financial impact will be minimal and that there will be good communication between the states as far as potential disciplinary issues.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. The Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 540. For more information, please contact the Board's Executive Director, Lauren Murray at 410-402-8556 or lauren.murray@maryland.gov.

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