

SUSAN W. KREBS
Legislative District 5
Carroll County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Government Operations and Estates
and Trusts Subcommittee

Health Facilities and
Pharmaceuticals Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 203
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3200 · 301-858-3200
800-492-7122 Ext. 3200
Fax 410-841-3349 · 301-858-3349
Susan.Krebs@house.state.md.us

The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Health and Government Operations

HB708 State Board of Dental Examiners – Dispositions and Summary Suspensions

– Time Periods

Thursday, February 24, 2021

WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

HB 708 amends the current law regarding disciplinary matters and summary suspensions handled by the Board of Dental Examiners.

Our current law offers no clear time lines for due process or adjudication of disciplinary matters of licensees. This bill would model Maryland's disciplinary structure after what our neighboring state of Virginia currently has in place. Should the Board not act within the appropriate time constraints set forth in the bill then the matter in question would automatically be decided for on behalf of the licensee.

These changes will hopefully be the motivation necessary to the ensure the Board is handling and disposing of disciplinary matters within a reasonable time.

WHAT IS THE NEED FOR THE BILL?

This bill is necessary to give dentists a fair shake before the Board should they ever be faced with a disciplinary matter. There have been numerous instances over the years of licensees left languishing for sometimes YEARS without closure on their matters. Such delays can cause licensees irreparable damage both personally and professionally and have lasting implications on their careers.

If we do not pass this bill we leave dentists subject to arbitrary and at times capricious behavior by the Board. Licensees under the Dental Board deserve the same protections as any other health occupations licensee; they deserve their matters be adjudicated promptly and fairly.

I urge the Committee to favorably report HB708.