



Date: February 24, 2021  
Committee: House Ways and Means  
Bill: House Bill 1195 – Income Tax - Credits for Preceptors in Areas With Health Care Workforce Shortages - Eligibility and Sunset Repeal  
Position: Favorable

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA) is a constituent organization of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), and we represent all practicing physician assistants (PAs) in the state of Maryland. We support this bill to update the criteria for tax-credit qualification and ask for your FAVORABLE vote on HB 1195.

The intention of the original bill, SB 411 in 2016, was well-developed and noble, requiring 160 hours of physician (and nurse practitioner) training of residents in clinical practice in underserved areas of the state. Its passage and implementation allowed for some “trial-and-error” findings that have been identified as obstructions to fully utilizing this resource and encouraging training sites in underserved regions. No one really questions the need for additional healthcare providers in underserved areas of the state, especially for primary care services. And, statistically, primary care practices are the lowest-paying branches of medicine, often with significant administrative challenges. For providers to participate in additional activities, such as training medical students, nurse practitioner students or PA students, it is an additional time-consuming burden that detracts from their income production. By offsetting some of the lost time with tax credits, incentives then exist to promote such training in the hopes of recruiting more providers to practice primary care medicine in underserved areas.

We have learned that different programs have different clerkship time-requirements that range in weeks and hours. The timing of clerkships also did not always coincide with the tax year. Thus, it was sometimes difficult to meet those 160 hours, and preceptors would “lose” hours due to cut-off dates. This bill is designed to be more user-friendly across the board for physicians, nurse practitioners and PAs by decreasing those training hours to 100 for credit-earned and allowing more fluidity with cut-off dates, preventing “lost” hours. The physicians, NPs and PAs have all worked together on this bill to benefit all involved and with the ultimate goal of improving access to quality healthcare in all regions of Maryland.

The MdAPA thanks you for your consideration of HB 1195, and we urge a FAVORABLE report on the bill.

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