



# Board of Pharmacy

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

*Jennifer L. Hardesty, Board President – Deena Speights-Napata, Executive Director*

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: House Bill 407 – Health Occupations – Health Care Staffing Shortage Emergency – Declaration and Licensing and Practice Requirements (Health Care Heroes Act of 2022) - Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Information for House Bill (HB) 407 – Health Occupations – Health Care Staffing Shortage Emergency – Declaration and Licensing and Practice Requirements (Health Care Heroes Act of 2022).

HB 407 would require the Board to issue an initial license on an expedited basis following a declaration of health care staffing shortage emergency issued by the Secretary of Health. HB 407 would allow an individual to practice pharmacy in a health care facility located in Maryland without first obtaining a license or registration issued by the Board.

The Board would like to inform the Health and Government Operations Committee (“Committee”) that the Board does not issue a “temporary health occupation license” or “temporary practice letter.” However, please note that the Board typically processes completed applications within four (4) business days. The Board requires that each licensee and registrant satisfy educational and training requirements prior to providing pharmaceutical services to ensure public health and safety. The requirements for expedited processing included in HB 407 would not significantly reduce the Board’s standard processing time.

The Board would like to inform the Committee that the Board does not have a distinct licensure category for “inactive” or “retired” status.

HB 407 does not clearly indicate whether a practitioner that has allowed their license or registration to expire or “lapse” would be excluded from the definition of a “retired” practitioner. The Board suggests that a practitioner that has a “lapsed” license or registration should apply for reinstatement.

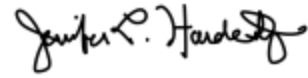
Finally, the Board suggests an amendment that exempts a health occupation board that efficiently processes an applicant’s completed application within an average of five (5) business days from all provisions of HB 407.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at [deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov](mailto:deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov) / (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Deena Speights-Napata in black ink.

Deena Speights-Napata, MA  
Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Jennifer L. Hardesty in black ink.

Jennifer L. Hardesty,  
PharmD, FASCP  
President