



Board of Physicians

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

Damean W.E. Freas Board Chair – Christine Farrelly, Executive Director

4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore MD 21215 Phone: 410-764-4777; Email: mbpmail.rcn.com

2022 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: SB 311 – Health Occupations – Podiatric Physicians
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
POSITION: Letter of Concern

TITLE: Health Occupations – Podiatric Physicians

POSITION & RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Concern for Senate Bill (SB) 311, “Health Occupations - Podiatric Physicians.” This bill changes the term “podiatrist” to “podiatric physician” in certain articles of the Annotated Code of Maryland and authorizes publishers of the Annotated Code of Maryland to correct cross-references and terminology rendered incorrect under certain circumstances.

The Board has the following concerns:

- This bill will confuse the public. Title 16 of the Health Occupations (H.O.) Article is renamed “Podiatric Physicians.” The bill does not change the name of the State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners. The Board licenses “physicians” and “physician assistants.” The Board also licenses naturopathic doctors, who are prohibited by statute from using the term “physician.” Confusion will exist if there is another group of health care practitioners in Maryland, regulated by a different health occupations board, utilizing the term “physician.”
- The definitions of “physician” and “practice medicine” in Title 14 of the H.O. Article remain the same. Clarification may be needed in 14-101 and possibly other sections of Title 14, because e.g., proposed language to H.O. 14-5F-14(b) includes “PODIATRIC PHYSICIAN” (Page 12, Line 13) and “podiatric physicians” would not be licensees of the Board.

Section 2 of the bill states: “*AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That in every law, executive order, rule, regulation, policy, or document created by any official, employee, or unit of this State, podiatrists are renamed podiatric physicians, as provided in this Act.*” Despite this declaration, the Board believes that it would need to promulgate amended regulations to provide clarity and reduce confusion for the public.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Matthew Dudzic, Health Policy Analyst, Maryland Board of Physicians, 410-764-5042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Damean W. E. Freas".

Damean W. E. Freas, D.O.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

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