



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

Date: February 1, 2022

Committee: The Honorable Delegate Shane Pendergrass, Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 55 - Health Occupations - Nurse Anesthetists - Drug Authority and Collaboration

Position: Letter of Information

The Maryland Society of Anesthesiologists (MSA) is a State component society of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). The MSA is a non-profit physician organization dedicated to promoting the safest and highest standards of the profession of anesthesiology in the State of Maryland. Our purpose is to advocate on behalf of our members for their patients through policy, education, and research.

As introduced House Bill 55 “authorizes a nurse anesthetist to prescribe, order, and administer drugs, including specified controlled dangerous substances (CDS). The bill designates a licensed nurse anesthetist as an “authorized prescriber” under the Maryland Pharmacy Act.”

We appreciate the Maryland Association of Nurse Anesthetists for working together with us on areas of concern with the bill as introduced. The outcome of those discussions are the Sponsor amendments that:

1. Remove references to “Podiatry” throughout the bill, and
2. Delete the following lines as it pertains to the prescriptive authority:
House Bill 55 (1st Reader) Page 2, line 29 thru Page 3, line 2:
[(IV) WITHOUT OBTAINING APPROVAL FROM A PRACTITIONER WITH WHOM THE NURSE ANESTHETIST COLLABORATES UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.]

With these amendments the MSA takes a neutral position on House Bill 55. We thank the proponents and Sponsor for addressing our concerns.

For additional information please contact Dan Shattuck, Executive Director at mdashq@gmail.com.