



Board of Physicians

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2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: SB 13 – Family Law – Custody Evaluators – Qualifications and Training
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
POSITION: Letter of Information

TITLE: Family Law – Custody Evaluators – Qualifications and Training

POSITION & RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Information for Senate Bill (SB) 13 – Family Law – Custody Evaluators – Qualifications and Training. SB 13 would establish qualifications and training for court-appointed custody evaluators.

Under SB 13, a physician who is “board-certified in psychiatry” is considered to be a qualified custody evaluator. However, SB 13 does not further define the term “board-certified” or list appropriate certifying boards. While the primary U.S. bodies that provide physicians with board certification are the American Board of Medical Specialties and the American Osteopathic Association, there are a number of other private certifying bodies with varying requirements and standards. The Board recommends defining “board-certified” to establish which certifying boards are appropriate for the purposes of SB 13, as is done under Health Occupations Article § 14-101(c).

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

Sincerely,

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.