



**Senate Finance Committee**  
**Senate Bill 960 - State Board of Nursing –**  
**Sunset Extension, Licensure Exceptions, and Board Operations and Membership**  
**Support with Amendments**  
**March 14, 2023**

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) support *Senate Bill 960 – State Board of Nursing- Sunset Extension, Licensure Exceptions, and Board Operations and Membership* with amendments. The situation of the Maryland Board of Nursing has been difficult for the Maryland Nurses Association. We fully support the Board and believe strongly that health occupation boards should be independent of the Department of Health. However, we recognize that Maryland Board of Nursing is facing nearly insurmountable challenges, as it has not had the resources to address its operational issues. Therefore, MNA supports this legislation as a short-term measure necessary to address the lack of support and collaboration from prior departmental leadership.

We are deeply appreciative of the sponsor’s commitment to protect and support nurses in Maryland. The last three years have been almost unbearable for the profession. We have faced unimaginable challenges in supporting Maryland through the pandemic, navigating the stress created by ongoing health professional shortages, and often bearing the brunt of the public’s frustration with an overextended health care system.

We want the Maryland Board of Nursing to be fully resourced, independent, and in a position to take a leadership role in health care policy in Maryland. This legislation offers us a bridge to that time where our Board will have the support to reach its potential.

We understand that the sponsor is requesting amendments to conform SB 960 to its House crossfile and to clarify that the Board’s executive director must be a registered nurse. With these amendments, we ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).