



Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 12, 2024

The Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB1072 – Occupational and Professional Licensing - Military Training and Military Spouses - Letter of Opposition

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of opposition for Senate Bill (SB) 1072 – Occupational and Professional Licensing - Military Training and Military Spouses. This bill requires an occupational licensing board to issue a license, certificate, permit, or registration to an applicant who is military trained or who is a military spouse if the applicant meets certain requirements; requires an occupational licensing board to consider certain types of experience for a certain calculation; and authorizes an occupational licensing board to issue a temporary license, certificate, permit, or registration under certain circumstances.

Although the Board supports the practice of reducing barriers to licensure and certification for military families, we nonetheless have serious concerns about this bill as it is written. The bill places an equivalency between completion of military training or specialty and civilian practice standards. These standards are not identical. Further, the legislation fails to specify an education requirement. Education requirements are a significant feature of our standards for licensure and certification for nursing and related professions. The Board is concerned that these aspects of the bill pose a danger to the public, who rely on medical professionals who are thoroughly trained under standard and rigorous processes.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov, or call (410) 585 – 2049.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Hicks', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gary N. Hicks
Board President

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