



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

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### MARYLAND BOARD OF PHARMACY

#### 2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO.:** SB 1072 – Occupational and Professional Licensing – Military Training and Military Spouses  
**COMMITTEE:** Education, Energy, and the Environment  
**POSITION:** Letter of Information

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**TITLE:** Occupational and Professional Licensing – Military Training and Military Spouses

#### **POSITION & RATIONALE:**

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (Board) respectfully submits this letter of information for SB 1072 – Occupational and Professional Licensing – Military Training and Military Spouses (SB 1072).

#### **Current law – State – Health Occupations Article, §§ 1-701 – 1-706, Annotated Code of Maryland – expedited processing**

The Board is required to expedite the licensing process for (1) veterans, (2) active duty service members in the armed forces, reserves, or National Guard, and (3) military spouses. Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 1-701 – 1-706. A veteran may request expedited processing within one year after their date of discharge from active duty under circumstances other than dishonorable. *Id.* A surviving spouse of a veteran or a service member may apply for expedited processing within one year after the date on which their spouse died. *Id.* An active duty service member, a spouse of an active duty service member, or a spouse of a veteran may request expedited processing at any time. *Id.* Additionally, a veteran, an active duty service member, or a military spouse may request, (1) an advisor to assist with the application process; (2) assistance with identifying programs that offer relevant education and training or ways of obtaining needed experience in the event their education, training, or experience does not meet the requirements; (3) renewal of a license or a registration after the expiration of the renewal period without payment of a penalty or a reinstatement fee if the late renewal is a direct result of deployment outside of the U.S. or its territories; or (4) completion of any continuing education requirements or criminal history records check required for renewal within a reasonable time after renewing the license or the registration

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if the delay is a direct result of deployment outside of the U.S. or its territories. *Id.* The Board has information regarding expedited processing on its website.<sup>1</sup>

**Current law – federal – Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 (VAEIA) – portability of professional license**

A pharmacist license or a pharmacy technician registration issued to a member of the uniformed services or a spouse of a member of the uniformed services by a state other than Maryland is considered valid in Maryland, provided the servicemember or the spouse of a service member (1) provides the Board with a copy of military orders for service to Maryland, (2) remains in good standing with the licensing authority that issued a license or a registration to the servicemember or the spouse of a servicemember, (3) remains in good standing with every jurisdiction with which the servicemember or the spouse of a servicemember has obtained licensure or registration through reciprocity, and (4) submits to the Board for the purposes of standards of practice, discipline, and continuing education requirements. 50 U.S.C. § 4025(a). The Board has information regarding VAEIA on its website.<sup>2</sup>

**Current law – State – Health Occupations Article, §§12-305, 12-6B-02, Annotated Code of Maryland – licensure by reciprocity for a service member**

An applicant for a pharmacist license or a pharmacy technician registration who “has completed a military program of training, been awarded a military occupational specialty, and performed that specialty at a level that is substantially equivalent to or exceeds the requirements of the occupational licensing board to which the applicant has applied” is eligible currently through reciprocity, without engaging “in the active practice...for at least 2 of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application.” *Compare* § 10-1702(A)(1)(i)-(ii) with Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 12-305, 12-6B-02.

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<sup>1</sup> Board, website, accessed February 28, 2024, <https://health.maryland.gov/pharmacy/docs/HB225VeteransFullEmploymentActof2013Notice.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Board, website, accessed February 28, 2024, <https://health.maryland.gov/pharmacy/Pages/Veterans-Auto-and-Education-Improvement-Act.aspx>.

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Currently, the US Air Force,<sup>3</sup> the US Army,<sup>4</sup> and the US Navy<sup>5</sup> require those who serve as a pharmacist to obtain a Doctor of Pharmacy degree or a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree, which meets the Board's licensure requirement of "proof that the applicant has graduated...from a school or college of pharmacy...." COMAR 10.34.02.03.

Currently, the pharmacy technician program conducted by the Medical Education and Training Campus, JBSA Fort Sam Houston, Texas on behalf of the US Air Force, the US Army, and the US Navy requires a graduate to take the Exam for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians thorough the National Health Career Association to qualify for the designation of Certified Pharmacy Technician.<sup>6</sup> The Certified Pharmacy Technician credential meets the Board's registration requirement of "current certification by a national pharmacy certification program." COMAR 10.34.34.05.

Licensing statutes and regulations which are in effect are less restrictive than SB 1072.

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<sup>3</sup> U.S. Air Force, website, accessed February 28, 2024, <https://www.airforce.com/careers/healthcare/pharmacist>.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Army, website, accessed February 28, 2024, <https://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/career-match/science-medicine/physical-mental-health/67e-pharmacist.html>

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Navy, website, accessed February 28, 2024, <https://www.navy.com/careers-benefits/careers/medical/pharmacy>.

<sup>6</sup> Medical Education and Training Campus, website, accessed February 28, 2024, <https://www.metc.mil/Academics/Programs/Ancillary-Services/Pharmacy-Technician/>.

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**Current law – State – Health Occupations Article, §§ 12-305, 12-6B-02, Annotated Code of Maryland – licensure by reciprocity for a military spouse**

An applicant for a pharmacist license or a pharmacy technician registration who “is a military spouse hold[ing] a current license...or registration from another jurisdiction...” is eligible through reciprocity currently. Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 12-305, 12-6B-02.

SB 1072 would not create an additional pathway to obtain a pharmacist license or a pharmacy technician registration for a military spouse.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Deena Speights-Napata, MA, Executive Director, at [deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov](mailto:deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov) or (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,



Deena Speights-Napata, MA  
Executive Director  
Maryland Board of Pharmacy