



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

**Board of Physical Therapy Examiners**  
**4201 Patterson Avenue, Suite 304**  
**Baltimore, MD 21215-2299**

March 1, 2024

The Honorable Brian Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and Environment Committee  
Room 231 House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SB 1072 - Occupational and Professional Licensing - Military Training and Military Spouses**

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members,

The Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the “Board”) is submitting this Letter of Concern for SB 1072 Occupational and Professional Licensing - Military Training and Military Spouses.

The intent of SB 1072 is commendable; however, both federal and state laws render it unnecessary. Federally, the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 (PL 117-333) allows for the mobility of licensed active-duty members of the military and their spouses. Further, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 1-702(b) already requires each health occupation board to credit training and education provided by the military as appropriate, and Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 1-704 establishes a process for expediting licensure applications from active-duty service members, veterans, and their spouses. The Board complies with all of these laws, as well as provisions in the Maryland Physical Therapy Act concerning temporary licensure (Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 13-313), licensure by endorsement (Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 13-307), and the Interstate Physical Therapy Licensure Compact (Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 13-3a-01), all of which increase licensure opportunities and decrease barriers for active-duty service members, veterans, and their spouses.<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, doctoral-level physical therapy education provided through the military education system at Army-Baylor and West Point is fully accredited and graduates are eligible for licensure under the Board’s existing licensure standards.

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<sup>1</sup> Importantly, none of these laws require active engagement in the practice of physical therapy for at least 2 of the 5 preceding years the way SB 1072 does.

The Board supports and expedites applications from active-duty service members, veterans, and their spouses through our online application system, which is available 24/7. As a result of our online system, the Board issues 99% of all physical therapy licenses within 10 days. The Board welcomes an opportunity to work with the sponsor and bill proponents to discuss the licensure process for active-duty service members, veterans, and military spouses.

For these reasons, the Board respectfully requests that the Committee vote unfavorably on SB 1072.

Thank you for considering the Board's perspective on this matter. Should you require any further information or clarification please contact Laurie Kendall-Ellis, Executive Director at (410) 764-4718 or at [laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov](mailto:laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Laurie Kendall-Ellis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurie Kendall-Ellis, PT, CAE  
Executive Director

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