

SB 243 -State Board of Professional Counselors and

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

January 18, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE:Senate Bill 243 State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists – Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee – Sunset Extension - Letter of Support

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill 243 State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice—Sunset Extension. This legislation extends the sunset date of the Board from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

SB 243 extends the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee until July 1, 2026 which falls under the Board. This will align the Committee's termination date with the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists, putting them on the same cycle.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

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Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

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**2024 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: SB 243
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Support

TITLE: State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists – Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee – Sunset Extension

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill is for the continuation of the Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee within the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) in accordance with the provisions of the Maryland Program Act (sunset law) by extending to July 1, 2026, the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Committee.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board supports SB 243.

The Board has supported and included the Behavioral Analysts Advisory Committee in the business of the Board. There are no deficiencies at present to correct. Continuation of the Behavioral Analyst Advisory Committee will ensure that the Board meets its mission and purpose to protect the citizens of Maryland by licensing and monitoring disciplinary procedures for Behavioral Analysts.

Thank you for considering this testimony. The Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists is requesting a favorable report on SB 243. If you require any additional information, please contact the Board’s Acting Executive Director, Nicki Drotleff at 410-764-4734 or at nicki.drotleff@maryland.gov

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