

# **SB 257 -State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners**

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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:State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners - 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 257 State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners—Sunset Extension. This legislation extends the sunset date of the Board from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2028.

The Department is taking a uniform approach to recommended sunset extensions for our independent health occupations boards. A more thorough evaluation of the Health Occupations Boards is needed at this time to assess ongoing concerns related to licensure, technology, and administrative functions. MDH believes a three year sunset extension allows ample time for MDH and the Boards to examine these functions and return to the General Assembly in 2026 with an update.

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](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov) or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

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

# **APTA MD 2024 Testimony - Support - Sunset Bill SB2**

Uploaded by: JD Sheppard

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# APTA Maryland

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January 1, 2023

The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair  
Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Senate Bill 257 – State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners - Sunset Extension- SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Beidle,

The American Physical Therapy Association Maryland is writing to register our support of Senate Bill 257.

The purpose of this legislation is to extend the termination date for the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners by three years to July 1, 2028, subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (MPEA).

The mission of the Board is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all Marylanders through the promotion and oversight of the Physical Therapy Practice Act. The vision is to ensure physical therapists and physical therapist assistants meet and exceed the physical therapy standards of practice to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all Marylanders.

**APTA Maryland supports legislation that would allow for the continuing of the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.**

**For the reasons noted above we ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 257.**

Sincerely,



Roy Film, PT, DPT, MPT  
President, APTA Maryland

**SB 257 - Physical Therapy Bd - Support - FIN.pdf**

Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: FAV



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

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

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### 2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO: SB 257**  
**COMMITTEE: Finance**  
**POSITION: Support**

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**TITLE:** State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners - Sunset Extension

**BILL ANALYSIS:** This bill extends the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (“the Board”) for 3 years until July 1, 2028.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:** The Board supports SB 257.

Historically, the Sunset Extension for the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners has been set at 10 years, notably longer than the national average of five (5) years for similar jurisdictions. In response to the request of the new administration in 2023, a two (2) year Sunset Extension was implemented, effective until July 1, 2025. Approval of SB 257 sunset extension to July 1, 2028, is crucial to ensure the continuity of the Board's mission, dedicated to upholding the Maryland Physical Therapy Act that effectively safeguards the health, safety, and welfare of individuals and importantly due to this mission, attracting a physical therapy workforce to Maryland.

Since its establishment in 1947, the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners has consistently adhered to its legislative intent. Demonstrating operational efficiency, the Board has successfully managed its responsibilities without experiencing licensing or investigation backlogs. Furthermore, it maintains a balanced budget, engages in activities unique to its jurisdiction, and excels in its overarching mandate to protect the public.

Notably, the Office of Legislative Auditors (OLA) did not recommend sunsetting the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners in their January 2021 audit report findings. This underscores the Board's commitment to excellence and compliance with established standards.

The Board proactively conducts operational self-assessments. The results support our continued operational success, as evidenced by the MDH-IAC/S auditor's documented January 5, 2023 status report for the audit period ending April 30, 2022:

Finding 3: COMPLETE - Satisfactorily complied with the OLA's recommendation  
Finding 4: COMPLETE - Satisfactorily complied with the OLA's recommendation

The Office of Constituent Services confirmed that in Fiscal Year 2023, no complaints were received about the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, attesting to its effective and responsive governance.

As an independent and self-funded Board, we express our gratitude to the committee for their consideration and respectfully request a favorable outcome for SB 257. Your support is vital in ensuring the continued success and impact of the Board in fulfilling its critical role in protecting the public.

The Board thanks the committee for considering this testimony and respectfully requests a favorable outcome of SB 257.

For more information, please contact Laurie Kendall-Ellis, Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners at (410) 764-4718 or at [laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov](mailto:laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov).

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