

ANNE R. KAISER
Legislative District 14
Montgomery County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

House Chair
Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,
Information Technology and
Biotechnology



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 425
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3036 · 410-841-3036
800-492-7122 Ext. 3036
Fax 301-858-3060 · 410-841-3060
Anne.Kaiser@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1053:
State Board of Nursing - Executive Director Qualifications
March 21, 2024**

Chair Beidle and esteemed members of the Senate Finance Committee, it is my pleasure to come before you and offer testimony in favor of **House Bill 1053: State Board of Nursing - Executive Director Qualifications**. As amended, this bill removes the qualification that the executive director of Maryland Board of Nursing (MBON) must be a registered nurse (RN) with a master's degree in nursing, effective July 2025.

Why am I suggesting this change? Last year, Ernst & Young and the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability both evaluated MBON's infrastructure and operations. The reports confirmed that many of the challenges faced by MBON stemmed from underfunding and understaffing, and since then, MBON has implemented several of the recommendations. One additional recommendation was to eliminate the RN requirement for the executive director of MBON, due to the "substantial clinical, education, examination, and judicial experience and expertise among MBON leadership currently to support a non-RN Executive Director." In changing the code to reflect this recommendation, we are aiming to give MBON the option to appoint an executive director with or without an active RN license, as best meets their needs in the future.

Until July 2025, the Maryland Secretary of Health has the authority to designate the Executive Director of MBON, after which MBON will resume the responsibility. My bill does not change who has this hiring authority after 2025, rather it only provides MBON with flexibility in their hiring options. Indeed, MBON can continue to appoint executive directors with an active RN license.

This bill passed 137-0 in the House of Delegates. I urge the committee to give a favorable report to **House Bill 1053: State Board of Nursing - Executive Director Qualifications**. Thank you.