



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the Senate Finance Committee

Chair: Senator Pamela Beidle

January 29, 2024

Senate Bill 0003:

Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 0003: Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

One of the largest barriers to the healthcare workforce is the delay of licensure. This bill allows our service members, veterans, and military spouses to expedite the process. According to Maryland Matters, "Maryland is currently short 5,000 full-time registered nurses and 4,000 licensed practical nurses. If steps aren't taken to lure new workers and reduce the number of nurses leaving the profession, the state could see shortages two or three times larger than current levels by 2035, according to the report."

The bill requires each health occupations board to collect other data sets that can help identify other barriers. We urge a favorable report.

*On behalf of the Maryland Rural Health Association,
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