



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

2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 257
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Support

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.

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