



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 1053 – State Board of Nursing – Executive Director Qualifications

Hearing Date: March 21, 2024

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) opposes *House Bill 1053 – State Board of Nursing – Executive Director Qualifications*. The bill would remove the statutory requirement for the Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Nursing (MBON) be a registered nurse. Last year, the Maryland Nurses Association advocated for the retention of the registered nurse provision when the Committee was considering *Senate Bill 960*, a bill that reorganized the MBON. The Committee approved that amendment request. We ask the Committee to continue considering the importance of having a registered nurse lead the MBON. We understand that there are not similar provisions for other health occupations in Maryland. However, MNA believes that the MBON is different because of the complexity of nursing issues. There are multiple pathways, more so than any other profession, for people to enter into nursing. With an executive director who is a nurse, the MBON will be in a better position to navigate the numerous nursing policy issues, including how to address the nursing shortage, facing the State. Almost 75% of states have registered nurses as executive directors of their boards of nursing.

MNA respectfully asks for an unfavorable report. We understand the bill’s intention to broaden the pool of applicants for the executive director in the future. We believe that the best candidate would be a registered nurse. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.