



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

Board of Examiners in Optometry
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215
410-764-5994

**2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: SB 175
COMMITTEE: HGO
POSITION: SUPPORT

TITLE: State Board of Examiners in Optometry – Criminal History Records Check

BILL ANALYSIS: The Bill, as amended, would require an applicant for a license to practice optometry and certain applicants for the renewal of a license to submit to a criminal history records check obtained from the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board of Examiners in Optometry (the “Board”) supports SB 175.

SB 175 will ensure the Board continues their mandated responsibilities of protecting the citizens of Maryland through its credentialing, examination, licensing, and disciplinary process for optometrists. There are currently fifteen health occupations Boards that require licensees to complete a criminal history records check.

The Board recognizes that its primary role is to protect the health and safety of consumers through the licensing and regulation of the practice of Optometry. SB175 will provide the Board with the ability to properly protect the public, through investigations of an applicant or licensee’s criminal history. Applicants and licensees will be required to submit a criminal history record check (CHRC) and disclose information regarding their criminal history.

The Board of Examiners in Optometry respectfully asks for a favorable report on SB 175. If you require additional information, please contact the Board’s Executive Director, Gwendolyn Joyner, at 410-764-5994, or Gwendolyn.Joyner@maryland.gov.

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