



Date: February 8, 2024

To: The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair

From: Aliyah N. Horton, FASAE, CAE, Executive Director, MPhA, 240-688-7808

Cc: Members, Health and Government Operations Committee

Re: INFORMATION: HB 171 – State Board of Pharmacy - Membership - Veterinary Pharmacist

The Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA) is submitting this letter of information regarding **HB 171 – State Board of Pharmacy - Membership - Veterinary Pharmacist**.

- There are currently four seats on the Board of Pharmacy that have a viable pathway for a veterinary pharmacist to serve:
 - two seats for a pharmacist that primarily serves in an independent pharmacy setting; and
 - two seats for a pharmacist-at-large
- Candidates must be (1) skilled and competent in practicing pharmacy and (2) have at least five years of active pharmacy experience.
- There is a statutory process under Health Occupations §12-202 by which nominees for the above-mentioned seats are vetted via the Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA) or in conjunction with the Maryland Pharmaceutical Society (MPhS).
- The Board of Pharmacy notifies all licensed pharmacists in the state, with significant lead time, when a seat is up for nomination and to which organization the nominations should be submitted.
- HB 171 would empower the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, an organization whose mission is not associated with pharmacy, to appoint a seat on a pharmacy regulatory board.

MARYLAND PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION - Founded in 1882, MPhA is the only state-wide professional society representing all practicing pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and student pharmacists in Maryland. Our mission is to strengthen the profession of pharmacy, advocate for all Maryland pharmacists and promote excellence in pharmacy practice.