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Legislative District 12A

Howard County

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations and
Health Facilities
Public Health and Minority
Health Disparities



**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF
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SUPPORT

HB 381- State Board of Examiners in Optometry – Criminal History Records Checks

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

HB 381 is a State Board of Examiners in Optometry bill to require criminal background checks of licensees, reporting consistent with the requirements of most of our State medical boards.

The bill

1. Requires criminal history records checks for applicants and licensees and the FBI RAP Back program, which would notify the Board should a licensee be arrested, charged, or convicted after their initial criminal history records check; and
2. Aligns implementation with the Board's application renewal schedule by postponing its start to January 1, 2026; and
3. Tying the criminal background check to the FBI RAP Back program allows the Board to update a licensee's information without requiring the licensee to undergo repeat checks for biannual license renewal.

The legislation includes confidentiality provisions and the opportunity and process for individuals to contest the contents of their criminal history records.

I urge a favorable report on **HB 381**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terri Hill'.