

qualifications for appointment – opposition

HB 171 mandates appointment of a veterinary pharmacist from a list of all names submitted by the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association. General Membership of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association “shall consist of graduates of colleges of veterinary medicine who agree to abide by the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics of the [Maryland Veterinary Medical Association] and by the constitution and bylaws of the Association.¹ Excluding one individual, the Board of Directors and Leaders of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association consists of Doctors of Veterinary Medicine – zero are licensed pharmacists.² The Board opposes board membership by those who do not primarily practice pharmacy. The Board opposes appointment selection from an association whose general membership excludes licensed pharmacists.

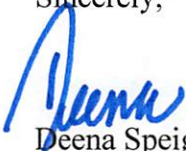
methods of gaining additional information regarding specialized subjects

The Board has multiple methods of considering stakeholder concerns including, soliciting informal comments, organizing workgroups, and creating task forces. Should a veterinary pharmacist, doctor of veterinary medicine, or any concerned individual desire to raise a concern that is within the Board’s statutory or regulatory jurisdiction, they are encouraged to contact the Board through email or attend a public meeting to discuss their concerns.

Based on the information provided above, the Board respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 171.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Deena Speights-Napata, MA, Executive Director, at deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov or (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,



Deena Speights-Napata, MA
Executive Director
Maryland Board of Pharmacy

¹ Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, website, accessed February 2, 2024, <<https://www.mdvma.org/product/Membership-Veterinarian>>.

² Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, website, accessed February 2, 2024, <<https://www.mdvma.org/leadership>>.

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



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

MARYLAND BOARD OF PHARMACY

2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: HB 171 – State Board of Pharmacy – Membership – Veterinary Pharmacist
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Letter of Opposition

TITLE: State Board of Pharmacy – Membership – Veterinary Pharmacist

POSITION & RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (Board) respectfully submits this letter of opposition for HB 171 – State Board of Pharmacy – Membership – Veterinary Pharmacist (HB 171).

current membership

The Board consists of 13 members including, “two who at the time of appointment practice primarily in independent pharmacies” and “two pharmacists at-large.” Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 12-202. A pharmacist who primarily practices as a veterinary pharmacist may pursue board membership through one of those four seats.

recent expansion of Board membership

The Board fully supported HB 693 – State Board of Pharmacy – Board Membership, Delegated Pharmacy Acts, and Sunset Extension (2023) (HB 693), which was introduced into the Maryland General Assembly by Delegate Kipke and approved by Governor Moore on April 24, 2023. In relevant part, HB 693 expanded membership of the Board to include one registered pharmacy technician. The expansion provided a path to leadership and inclusion for a critical, but previously unrepresented, member of the pharmacy team.

Veterinary pharmacists are required to meet the same educational standards and adhere to the same standard of care as current members of the Board who practice pharmacy; therefore, expansion would not improve the effectiveness of the Board.

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