



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

**Board of Examiners in Optometry**  
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**2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
POSITION PAPER**

**BILL NO: HB 381**  
**COMMITTEE: HGO**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

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

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The Bill, with amendments, would require a licensee to begin the Criminal History Records Check (CHRC) process effective January 1, 2026.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:** The Board of Examiners in Optometry (the “Board”) supports HB 381 with amendments.

HB 381 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. HB 381 will grant 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 is working with DLS on amendments that they are recommending for clarity.

The Board of Examiners in Optometry respectfully asks for a favorable report on HB 381, with amendments.

If you require additional information, please contact the Board’s Executive Director, Gwendolyn Joyner, at 410-764-5994, or [Gwendolyna.Joyner@maryland.gov](mailto:Gwendolyna.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.*