

Sponsor Testimony HB664, Finance Cmte.pdf

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 18, 2025

To: The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee

From: Delegate Jen Terrasa
District 13, Howard County

Re: Sponsor Testimony in Support of HB 664 Health Occupations - Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives - Disciplinary Actions

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 664 which is a clean-up bill requested by the Board of Nursing.

HB 664 will match the Board's disciplinary capacity for Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives (LDEMs) with that of all other professions under its jurisdiction. In 2014, the General Assembly passed HB 908, which expanded the Board's disciplinary authority to allow it to grant licenses that were subject to reprimand, probation or suspension to applicants who had in some way violated the Nurse Practice Act before their license had been granted. Before this bill was passed, the Board's only available action was to deny a candidate license, which shrunk the licensee pool and punished rulebreakers beyond what the Board thought necessary. These rule changes have been beneficial for the Board as well as our patients and nurses.

Since the passage of the 2014 bill, LDEMs were added to the Board's regulated occupations, but these provisions were not included in their statutes. This bill simply matches the disciplinary language in the LDEM statute to that of all other professions under the Board's jurisdiction.

For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-585-2049 or mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov, or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at 410-585-1953 or rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov.

I respectfully urge a favorable report of HB 664.

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Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

February 25th, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
Room 3
Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 664 – Health Occupations - Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives - Revisions

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support for HB 664 – Health Occupations - Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives - Revisions. This is a clean- up bill that matches the disciplinary options the Board has for Direct-Entry Midwives with those that it has for all other professions under its jurisdiction.

In 2014, this body passed [HB 908](#) which, among other things, extended the Boards options when granting licenses to applicants who had violated the Nurse Practice Act to include granting a license subject to reprimand, probation or suspension. Before this bill was passed, the Board's only option when dealing with such cases was to deny licensure; eliminating candidates from the pool of nurses the State could rely on, and punishing rule-breakers beyond what the Board felt was necessary. This change has been beneficial not only to the Board, but to patients and practitioners as well.

Since the bill was passed, Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives (LDEM) were added to the Board's governed professions, but these options were left out of the statute which created their licensure category. This bill simply matches the LDEM statute to that of all other professions under the Board's jurisdiction. Again, the Board asks the committee for a favorable report on this bill.

Thank you again for your time. For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-585-2049 or mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov, or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at 410-585-1953 or rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Christine Lechlitter
Board President

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