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Education, Energy, and the
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Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
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The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 418 – Foreign Service Members Portability of Occupational Licenses

I am Senator Bryan Simonaire presenting SB 418.

Let me say after a lot of work, collaboration and communication, this Foreign Service Members Portability of Occupational Licenses legislation is consensus legislation.

This was a massive comprehensive effort, and I want to thank all involved, especially the DLS drafting team.

In fact, this effort started drafting way back in June as DLS chose this bill to help train new drafters!

I worked with so many, including the:

- Department of *Veterans and Military Families*
- Department of *Health and all their Boards*
- Department of *Labor*
- Department of *Environment*
- Department of *Agriculture*
- Department of *Transportation*
- Department of *Natural Resources*
- Department of *Education*
- Department of *Public Safety and Correctional Services*
- *The Maryland Insurance Administration*
- The Maryland Bar Association
- The Public Service Commission
- The Maryland Association of Realtors
- Accountability and Implementation Board, and
- Numerous Military Advocacy groups

Out of respect to the committee's time, I asked most to provide written testimony.

The Foreign Service Act of 1980 was updated regarding professional license portability for Foreign Service families primarily through the Foreign Service Families Act of 2021 with additional updates thereafter.

However, several years later, Maryland law has not been updated with these important revisions; therefore, this bill primarily revises Maryland law to be compliant with the latest Foreign Service Members revisions.

This bill revises our Maryland laws so they are compliant with federal requirements found in 22 USC §4089. Foreign Service members and their spouses transferred on assignments will be able to use their home state occupational license and no longer be required to obtain a Maryland license if they meet certain requirements. They will now go through a registration process that ensures they are able to practice in our state. This will be tremendously helpful for foreign service members and their spouses to start working in our state.

There is a set of requirements that must be met, such as, having a valid license in their home state, being in good standing, proof they are in the Foreign Services on assignment, they will comply with Maryland's licensing requirements and scope of practice, etc.

I could go into much greater detail, but the bottom line – this will get Maryland into Compliance with Federal law.

For all these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration.