



Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 986 – Nurse Licensure - Educational Requirements - Enforcement

Dear Chair Bagnall and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for HB 986 Nurse Licensure - Educational Requirements - Enforcement. This bill would make enforcement of educational requirements more explicit, allowing the Board to ensure all nurses in the State are held to the highest educational standards. The amendment to the bill that was at the request of the Board was to remove unnecessary language regarding the Nurse Licensure Compact.

In 2023, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) announced enforcement actions against a large-scale fraudulent nursing diploma scheme. The Maryland Board of Nursing, having dealt with a number of cases involving such fraudulent diplomas, assisted the FBI in their efforts in order to protect Maryland patients. Since then, the Board has continued to work diligently to identify unqualified practitioners in their jurisdiction. HB 986 reinforces the Board's ability to require endorsement candidates to provide evidence of meeting the basic nursing education required either at the time of application or, if the individual presents an otherwise valid multistate license, after the license is issued if there is any subsequent suspicion of fraud or failure to complete a valid nursing education program.

For all of these reasons, the Board supports HB 986 as amended and requests a favorable report by the Committee. 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 Lechliter
Board President

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