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Legislative District 13
Howard County

Government, Labor, and
Elections Committee

Subcommittees

Election Law

Labor

Oversight Committee on Personnel



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 25, 2026

To: The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair, Health Committee

From: Delegate Jen Terrasa, District 13, Howard County

Re: Sponsor Testimony in Support of HB 986 – Nurse Licensure - Educational Requirements - Enforcement

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 986, which clarifies and strengthens education verification in the nursing licensure process in Maryland. The bill requires applicants for a nursing license to provide clear evidence that their educational credentials are up to state nursing standards. It also ensures the Board of Nursing can properly enforce license educational requirements.

This bill does *not* create additional education requirements for registered nurses in the state of Maryland. It is meant to strengthen public trust in Maryland-issued nursing licenses. Recently, national and regional concerns have been raised over diploma mills and falsified transcripts for nursing license applicants.

HB 986 makes three changes to Maryland nursing law. First, it creates a statutory definition for the term ‘valid nursing education program.’ Second, it adds the failure to complete a ‘valid nursing education program’ as explicit grounds for denial of a license or disciplinary action. Lastly, it reasserts the authority of the Board of Nursing to investigate the educational credentials of registered nurses in cases of suspected fraud or misrepresentation.

This legislation simply clarifies the investigative authority of the Board of Nursing, so the Board can effectively verify educational credentials. These changes will ensure the safety of both patients and nurses in medical settings.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 986.

