

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 364 (Delegates Saab and Cullison)  
Health and Government Operations

Finance

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Hospital and Nursing Facility Workers and Health Care Practitioners -  
Identification Tags and Badges - Name Requirement

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This bill specifies the allowable form of the name listed on (1) the personal identification tag of an employee or any other individual who provides health care services at a hospital or nursing facility in the State or (2) the badge or other identification worn by specified health care practitioners when providing health care to a patient. Specifically, the name can be the first name, nickname, last name, or full name commonly used in the hospital, nursing facility, office, or facility.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill's changes can be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** An employee or any other individual who provides a health care service at a hospital or nursing facility must wear a personal identification tag, except where inappropriate for medical reasons, that indicates in readable text the name and professional or other title of the individual. The Secretary of Health may impose a fine up to \$25 per violation of this requirement.

A health care practitioner who practices in a freestanding ambulatory care facility, a physician's office, or an urgent care facility must wear a badge or other form of

identification when providing health care to a patient. The badge or identification must display, in readily visible type, the health care practitioner's name and type of license. A badge or identification is not required to be worn if a patient is being seen in the office of a solo health care practitioner and the name and license of the practitioner can be readily determined from a posted license or sign in the office. Likewise, such identification is not required to be worn if the patient is being seen in a setting where surgical or other invasive procedures are performed where maintaining a sterile environment is medically necessary.

Each health occupations board may adopt regulations to implement the health care practitioner identification requirement and provide exemptions from wearing a badge or other form of identification or allow the use of a health care practitioner's first name when necessary for the patient or health care practitioner's safety or for therapeutic concerns. A violation of the identification requirement may be reported to a health occupations board. In response to a reported violation, a health occupations board may send an advisory letter or a letter of education to the health care practitioner. Such an advisory letter or letter of education is confidential and may not be publically reported as a disciplinary action.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 3, 2020  
mr/jc Third Reader - March 1, 2020

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