

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 83
Finance

(Senator Simonaire)

Health Occupations - Grounds for Discipline - Federal and Court Actions

This bill makes consistent the grounds for discipline by specified health occupations boards such that a board may deny licensure to an applicant or discipline a licensee if the applicant or licensee is disciplined by (1) a court or disciplinary authority of any other state or country; (2) any branch of the uniformed services; or (3) the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for an act that would be grounds for discipline under the board's disciplinary statutes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is technical and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The specified boards for which grounds for discipline are altered are the (1) Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists; (2) Dental Examiners; (3) Dietetic Practice; (4) Examiners in Optometry; (5) Pharmacy; (6) Physical Therapy Examiners; (7) Physicians (and the allied health committees); (8) Podiatric Medical Examiners; (9) Professional Counselors and Therapists; (10) Examiners of Psychologists; (11) Social Work Examiners; and (12) Environmental Health Specialists.

Current Law: “Uniformed Services,” as defined by 37 U.S.C. § 101, refers to the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Public Health Service (PHS).

Chapters 259 and 260 of 2025 altered references to the military throughout the Health-General Article, including disciplinary procedures under certain health occupations boards, to replace “military” with “uniformed services,” thereby explicitly incorporating violations that occur while an individual is serving in PHS or NOAA into existing disciplinary practices.

Though there are some differences in the statutory language of health occupations boards, most boards may deny a certificate/license (credential), reprimand any credential holder, place any credential holder on probation, or suspend or revoke a credential if the applicant or credential holder is disciplined or convicted by any state or country or a court of any state or country. Some boards may also deny or suspend a credential from an individual who is disciplined or convicted by any branch of the uniformed services, or the United States Veterans’ Administration.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 28, 2026
jg/jc

Analysis by: Eliana R. Prober

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510