



**Committee:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
**Bill Number:** SB 576  
**Title:** Health Occupations – Nurse Practitioners – Certifications of Competency and Incapacity  
**Hearing Date:** February 13, 2020  
**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 576 – Health Occupations – Nurse Practitioners – Certifications of Competency and Incapacities*. This bill allows nurse practitioners to work collaboratively with a physician to certify the competency and/or incapacity of certain individuals.

Under current state law, there are numerous procedures that require at least one physician to examine and provide certification of an individual’s competency or capacity to make health care decisions for themselves. Typically, these certifications are conducted in conjunction with a second physician or other licensed health care practitioner.

Since 2015, certified nurse practitioners have had the authority to practice independently in evaluating, diagnosing, and treating patients in Maryland. MNA supports this bill to expand the availability of nurse practitioners to provide certification for competency and treatment. We believe these changes will assist in expediting the process of obtaining required health care certifications.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.