



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Senate Bill 1045 – Department of Information Technology - Study of a Common Information Technology Platform for Health Occupations Boards–Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill 1045 (SB 1045) - Department of Information Technology - Study of a Common Information Technology Platform for Health Occupations Boards. SB 1045 would provide the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) with the necessary statutory framework to conduct this important study. The Department will assume the costs associated with completing this study out of existing resources.

The Department believes the boards would benefit from the economies of scale inherent in a common platform. Technology is constantly changing and requires upgrades; one comprehensive statewide system would be easier to maintain. The study would also ensure that vulnerabilities and common technology issues are identified, and lays the foundation for citizen-centric improvements that may allow for greater network adequacy.

DoIT and the Department have supported the concept of a common information technology (IT) platform that would assist in improving the licensing and investigation processes of the health occupation boards for some time. Generally, the health occupation boards have not taken advantage of previous offers by DoIT and the Department to assist them in their IT projects. SB 1045 would require DoIT to complete an IT audit in order to develop a list of vulnerabilities and a roadmap for addressing them.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Director of Governmental Affairs Webster Ye at (410) 260-3190 or webster.ye@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall
Secretary