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Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services
Subcommittee

Joint Committees

Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review

Audit

Children, Youth, and Families

Fair Practices and
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Pensions



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Testimony for Senate Bill 1045
Department of Information Technology - Study of a Common Information Technology Platform for Health
Occupations Boards
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 12, 2020

Chairman Hensky and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 1045: Department of Information Technology - Study of a Common Information Technology Platform for Health Occupations Boards.

Throughout Maryland, the 20 health occupations boards use different licensing and IT platforms. DLS has identified these systems as being outdated, inefficient, and not meeting the level of needed service. Each board continues to pay many different providers to maintain these systems, as well. The current systems have many potential vulnerabilities, such as a lack of cybersecurity protections and insufficient back-up.

Senate Bill 1045 requires the Department of Information Technology (DoIT), *in consultation with health occupation boards* to:

1. Review the information technology (IT) platforms used by each health occupations board, including the administrative functions used by each board and the cost of operating the platforms.
2. Make recommendations on the feasibility and cost of developing a common IT platform for use by each board that would standardize the websites and administrative functions of the boards and will make available accurate licensing information on health care providers for the purpose of facilitating network adequacy.
3. Submit its findings and recommendations to the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs and the House Health and Government Operations Committees by December 1, 2020.

Smaller boards do not have the resources to facilitate IT upgrades. A common, robust licensing system has great potential. Improvements will give the boards the ability to better communicate and provide transparency. Senate Bill 1045 also requires that DoIT assess:

- Adopting a standardized website appearance and functionality for all boards.
- The ability of each board to send automatic newsletters or notices to licensees or persons who request receiving notices from the board.
- Uniform translation services for the website.
- A standardized method of presenting information to interested parties and licensees on licensing certifications, meeting schedules and agendas, contact information for board membership and staff, public notices and complaint processing.

SB 1045 will give us the information needed to work with our health occupations boards to improve our services to customers. I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 1045. Thank you.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Addie Eckardt".

Senator Addie Eckardt