



# MARYLAND Department of Health

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

---

## 2020 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO:** HB 259  
**COMMITTEE:** Health and Government Operations  
**POSITION:** Oppose

---

**TITLE:** Health Occupations – Diagnostic Evaluation and Treatment of Patients –  
Disciplinary Actions

**BILL ANALYSIS:** HB 259 proposes that health occupations boards not be allowed to discipline a practitioner for using a particular diagnostic treatment or evaluation.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:** The Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice opposes this bill for the following reasons:

1. This bill appears to diminish the culpability of alternative medicine practitioners if one of their interventions has little to no effect or an adverse effect for a patient. If this bill is passed, the practitioners will be protected, but it leaves the patients of Maryland at risk. The subtraction of the language on page 3 takes away a Board's right to investigate and determine whether an applicant is fit to have a license.
2. There is no information on who would judge the research being put forth by these practitioners. This bill could allow for alternative medicine practitioners to begin interventions on patients with only a small amount of prior research, and afterwards, the practitioners would be protected from any type of recourse.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. The Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 259.

For more information, please contact Executive Director, Lauren Murray at 410-402-8556.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.