



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number: HB 364
Title: Hospital and Nursing Facility Workers and Health Care Practitioners - Identification Tags and Badges - Name Requirement
Hearing Date: February 11, 2020
Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) strongly supports *House Bill 364 – Hospital and Nursing Facility Workers and Health Care Practitioners – Identification Tags and Badges – Name Requirement*. Current law requires health care practitioners to wear identification badges with their full names and type of licensure. The bill allows health care practitioners to use just a first or last name.

MNA’s top priority is addressing workplace violence issues in health care facilities. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), about 75 percent of the nearly 25,000 workplace assaults reported annually occur in health care and social service settings.ⁱ

We have been working collaboratively with our facility partners in identifying best practices for preventing and mitigating workplace violence. We believe that it is a best practice to allow health care staff to wear an identification badge with just a first or last name in circumstances where they are uncomfortable. HB 364 will help us promote this best practice by clarifying Maryland’s law.

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 or (443) 926-3443.

ⁱ Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Guidelines for preventing workplace violence for healthcare and social service workers (OSHA, 3148-04R). Available at: www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3148.pdf. Accessed May 29, 2018.