



Board of Physicians

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

2020 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: HB 428
COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Oppose

TITLE: Health Occupations – Podiatric Physicians

BILL ANALYSIS: HB 428 changes the term “podiatrist” to “podiatric physician” in certain articles of the Annotated Code of Maryland and authorizes publishers of the Annotated Code of Maryland to correct cross-references and terminology rendered incorrect under certain circumstances.

POSITION & RATIONALE: The Maryland Board of Physicians (MBP) opposes HB 428 because MBP has the following concerns:

- Changes resulting from the bill may cause confusion for the public. Title 16 of the Health Occupations (H.O.) Article is renamed “Podiatric Physicians.” The bill does not change the name of the Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners. MBP, a separate board, licenses “physicians” and “physician assistants.” MBP also licenses naturopathic doctors, who are prohibited by statute from using the term “physician.” Confusion could exist if there is another group of health care practitioners in Maryland, regulated by a different board, utilizing the term “physician.”
- The bill does not amend the definition of “physician” or “practice medicine” in Title 14 of the H.O. Article. Clarification may be needed in §14-101, and possibly other sections of Title 14, because “podiatric physicians” would not be licensees of MBP.
- Section 2 of HB 428 states: “*AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That in every law, executive order, rule, regulation, policy, or document created by any official, employee, or unit of this State, podiatrists are renamed podiatric physicians, as provided in this Act.*” Despite this declaration, the Board believes that it would need to promulgate amended regulations to provide clarity and reduce confusion for the public.

For more information, please contact Wynnee Hawk, Manager, Policy and Legislation, Maryland Board of Physicians, 410-764-3786.

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