



Board of Physicians

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Damean W.E. Freas, D.O., Chair

2021 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: SB 169
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
POSITION: Oppose

TITLE: Health Occupations – Podiatric Physicians

BILL ANALYSIS: SB 169 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 (the Board) opposes SB 169 with the following concerns:

- This bill will 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 State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners. The Board licenses “physicians” and “physician assistants.” The Board also licenses naturopathic doctors, who are prohibited by statute from using the term “physician.” Confusion will exist if there is another group of health care practitioners in Maryland, regulated by a different board, utilizing the term “physician.”
- The definitions of “physician” and “practice medicine” in Title 14 of the H.O. Article remain the same. Clarification may be needed in §14-101, and possibly other sections of Title 14, because “podiatric physicians” would not be licensees of the Board.
- Section 2 of SB 169 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.