



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

January 26, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB0309 - PUBLIC HEALTH- DATA- RACE AND ETHNICITY - Letter of Information

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information on House Bill 0309- Public Health- Data- Race and Ethnicity Information.

HB 0309 would require MDH to publish "Health Care Disparities Policy Report Card " that includes various information, including racial and ethnic composition of every individual who is licensed or certified by the Health Occupation boards. It also requires MDH to respond to requests for health data and to meet annually to examine the data collected under this bill and identify any changes that could be implemented to improve said data.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 response efforts, the Department unfortunately does not have the fiscal or personnel resources to implement this bill if it is passed. Many of the Department's current personnel have already increased their workload and absorbed additional tasks that are critical to the COVID-19 response. Additionally, some of the data requested to be collected under this bill is already done so under Section 1-218 of the Health Occupations Article.

We recognize and value the importance of this bill and its impact on Marylanders. As such, we respectfully request this bill be held and reintroduced in the 2022 Session. We look forward to working with the bill sponsor(s) and appropriate stakeholders in the interim.

I hope this information is useful. If you have questions or need more information about this subject, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 260-3190 or webster.ye@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Webster Ye
Assistant Secretary, Health Policy