



Board of Nursing

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

March 19, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 1112 – Public Health – Maternal and Child Mortality – Review and Perinatal Hospice Services – Letter of Information with Amendments

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (“the Board”) respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for HB 1112 – Public Health – Maternal and Child Mortality – Review and Perinatal Hospice Services. This bill authorizes the State Child Fatality Review Team (State team) and Maternal Mortality Review Program (Review program) to enter into a certain agreement with an entity for certain storage of data and requires the agreement to provide certain protection and address certain issues. This bill further authorizes a physician or nurse practitioner who diagnoses an unborn child as having a certain anomaly to inform the pregnant woman in a certain manner of certain services, offer or refer the pregnant woman for certain services, and provide to the pregnant woman a certain information sheet. Additionally, the Maryland Department of Health is required to develop a certain list of certain perinatal hospice programs, and publish on its website certain information and a certain list.

The Board believes the role of a nurse practitioner is crucial within the scope of perinatal hospice care. Nurses are taught to not only provide holistic care addressing the physical needs of a pregnant woman, but also to create and foster a supporting and understanding environment. After a nurse practitioner diagnoses lethal fetal anomalies, it is greatly encouraged that the appropriate services and information are provided to the pregnant woman.

COMAR 10.27.07.02 requires a registered nurse to hold a current Maryland license in good standing or multistate licensure privilege to practice registered nursing within the State of Maryland, in order to qualify for and practice as a nurse practitioner.

The Board respectfully submits the following amendment to HB 1112 to clarify the definition of a nurse practitioner:

Amendment 1. On page 5. Line 23 – 24. Add:

(3) “NURSE PRACTITIONER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL **THAT HAS MULTISTATE LICENSURE PRIVILEGE** TO PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for HB 1112.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Iman Farid, Health Policy Analyst, at (410) 585 – 1536 (iman.farid@maryland.gov) or Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 (rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Gary N. Hicks
Board President

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