



# Board of Nursing

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

February 10, 2021

The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Room 101 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: House Bill 538 – Handgun Permits – Qualifications – High Risk Occupations – Letter of Information with Amendments**

Dear Chair Clippinger and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (“the Board”) respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for House Bill (HB) 538 – Handgun Permits – Qualifications – High Risk Occupations. This bill requires the Secretary of State Police to issue a permit to carry, wear, or transport a handgun to a person who meets certain requirements and is employed in a certain profession.

Nurses and nurse practitioners licensed by the Board must maintain an active license in good standing in order to be employed as a nurse or nurse practitioner. A registered nurse or licensed practical nurse is required to meet all renewal requirements under 10.27.01.13, Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). A registered nurse or licensed practical nurse shall renew biannually not later than the 28th day of the licensee’s birth month (COMAR 10.27.01.13). An individual applying for active licensure renewal shall show evidence of 1,000 hours of active nursing practice or graduation from an approved nursing program within 5 years immediately preceding the date of the renewal application. (COMAR 10.27.01.13G).

Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses may choose the option of completing thirty (30) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to satisfy the requirements for license renewal, 10.27.01.13G(1). An individual applying for active licensure renewal who does not meet the requirements of §G shall be required to successfully complete a Board-approved refresher program or Board-approved preceptorship program prior to renewal of the license. Practicing registered nursing or licensed practical nursing on an expired license is prohibited and subject to discipline under Health Occupations Article, §8-316(a), Annotated Code of Maryland.

A nurse practitioner must meet all of the requirements under COMAR 10.27.07.04. A certification as a nurse practitioner expires at the same time as the nurse practitioner’s registered nursing license, 10.27.07.04A. The certified nurse practitioner shall ensure that the Board has a record of each renewed national certification, 10.27.07.04D. Practicing on an expired national certification is prohibited and subject to discipline under Health Occupations Article, §8-316(a), Annotated Code of Maryland.

The Board proposes the following amendments to HB 538:

On page 3, line 7 after “NURSE” insert “WITH AN ACTIVE LICENSE IN GOOD STANDING”;

On page 3, line 8 after “PRACTITIONER” insert “WITH AN ACTIVE LICENSE IN GOOD STANDING”.

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments to HB 538.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Hicks', written in a cursive style.

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.*