



# Maryland Commission on Kidney Disease

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

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## 2022 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO:** HB 218  
**COMMITTEE:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT

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**TITLE:** Health Occupations – Nursing – Dialysis Technicians

### **BILL ANALYSIS:**

House Bill (HB) 218 will establish a separate category of certified dialysis technicians to be certified by the State Board of Nursing; repeal a requirement that a dialysis technician be a certified nursing assistant except under certain circumstances; alter the composition of the Board advisory committee; and authorize the Board to conduct site visits of certified dialysis technician training programs.

### **POSITION AND RATIONALE:**

The Maryland Commission on Kidney Disease supports HB 218: Health Occupations – Nursing – Dialysis Technicians.

The mission of the Commission is to protect the citizens of Maryland and to promote quality health care in the field of nephrology and transplantation. As part of this mission, a core function of the Commission is to ensure that patients have access to safe dialysis services. The Commission believes that HB 218 will advance the mission of the Commission and will align Maryland more appropriately with the requirements in other states. In providing quality dialysis services, the key factor is ensuring that individuals have successfully completed a dialysis training program and received national certification through one of three programs. This bill maintains this important and necessary requirement. Being a certified nursing assistant is not necessary for the scope of work being performed in dialysis centers by these individuals. As we are all aware, Maryland is facing a critical workforce shortage in health care. The State must ensure that dialysis centers can be appropriately staffed by individuals with the needed skills to provide safe services. The Commission believes that HB 218 will assist in alleviating the hiring issues currently being experienced by centers while at the same time maintaining quality services.

For these reasons, the Commission respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 218. If you require additional information, please contact Eva Schwartz, Executive Director at [eva.schwartz@maryland.gov](mailto:eva.schwartz@maryland.gov) or at (410) 764-4785.

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