

PAMELA G. BEIDLE  
Legislative District 32  
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

Vice Chair  
Executive Nominations Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 202  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3593 · 301-858-3593  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3593  
Pamela.Beidle@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 17, 2022

**Senate Bill 611**  
**State Board of Dental Examiners – Membership,**  
**Training and Disciplinary Process – Revisions**

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the EHEA committee,

Thank you for hearing Senate Bill 611, which concerns the State Dental Board. I greatly appreciate your consideration. And I appreciate your colleague, Senator Reilly's cosponsoring this bill with me.

There has been a significant amount of discussion this Session about broadly improving the Health Professional Boards and Commissions. They have challenges that were, like all organizations, undoubtedly exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic. The Secretary of Health has been central to that discussion, but so have my colleagues. Vice Chair Kagan has introduced Senate Bill 899 that reforms staffing and infrastructure of all the boards, which you will hear next week. I support Senator Kagan's bill and consider the one before you today to be complimentary of the Vice Chair's leadership on this issue. Additionally, Senators Watson and Carter have Senate Bill 555, which you heard last Thursday that requires reporting on the disciplinary activities of all the Boards. Similarly, I view the bill before you as complimentary of our newest colleague's legislation.

I had legislation before you last year that was amended to be a report from the Dental Board. Delivered to the legislature in November, there was a consistent theme throughout that report that, fairly, noted that the Board needs more staff and resources. I fully support more resources so that the Board can optimally perform its duties. When testifying before Budget & Taxation February 4, Secretary Schrader offered the support of General Fund revenues in furtherance of Senator Kagan's bill. I applaud the Secretary's statement, and would fully support such a supplemental appropriation from the Administration for supporting the boards.

You'll hear more from my panelists, but the bill before you would streamline the way the Dental Board is constituted, provide for defined due process entitlements when a practitioner is before the Board, and legal education for the Board to assist in the fair and effective administration of the new rights and responsibilities.

At the end of the day, the Health Professional Boards and Commissions exist to ensure the delivery to Marylander's World-quality healthcare, and to protect of our constituents. I believe it's in that spirit that all of these bills have been introduced.

I request a favorable Committee report of the Committee.