



Board of Nursing

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

February 1, 2022

The Honorable Senator Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 230 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting – Letter of Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (“the Board”) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for SB 230 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting. This bill requires health occupations boards to issue a temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets certain requirements. Applicants of an expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit are required to submit an application providing certain information. Additionally, this bill authorizes health occupations boards to apply to the Secretary of Health for approval of an alternative process for licensure, certification, registration, or permitting.

The Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 requires the Board to expedite the licensure and certification process for military affiliated applicants. The Board, upon verifying the completion of the applicant’s requirements, may issue a temporary license or certificate for a certain period of time. The Board currently issues temporary licenses or certificates for a period of 90 days. If an applicant is unable to meet certain requirements, the temporary license or certificate can be extended for an additional 90 days.

The Board believes that SB 230 acts to supplement the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013. The most notable changes for the Board would be the issuance of an expedited temporary license or certificate for a period of 6 months. Additionally, the Board may be provided more flexibility by applying to the Secretary to approve an alternative process for issuing expedited temporary licenses or certificates.

The Board respectfully submits the following amendment to provide clarity for when a temporary license or certificate will expire. A notice to deny is often issued when the Board determines, through a positive criminal history records check, that an applicant had a previous disciplinary action against their license or an unrelated criminal conviction that resulted in a

penalty. It would not be appropriate for the Board to send a notice to deny to individuals that did not receive a positive criminal history records check.

Section 1-702.1. On page 3. Lines 14 and After. Add Provision (III)

(I) 6 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE; ~~OR~~

(II) THE DATE ON WHICH A LICENSE, CERTIFICATE, REGISTRATION, OR PERMIT IS GRANTED OR A NOTICE TO DENY A LICENSE, CERTIFICATE, REGISTRATION, OR PERMIT IS ISSUED BY THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD; ~~OR~~

(III) THE DATE UPON WHICH A HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD DETERMINES THAT A SERVICE MEMBER, VETERAN, OR MILITARY SPOUSE DOES NOT MEET THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE.

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for SB 230.

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.