



Board of Physicians

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Damean W.E. Freas, D.O., Chair

2022 SESSION LETTER OF INFORMATION

BILL NO.: HB 292 – Occupational Licensing Boards and Commission on Judicial Disabilities – Reporting Disciplinary Activities
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Information

TITLE: Occupational Licensing Boards and Commission on Judicial Disabilities – Reporting Disciplinary Activities

POSITION & RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Information for House Bill (HB) 292 – Occupational Licensing Boards and Commission on Judicial Disabilities – Reporting Disciplinary Activities. HB 292 would require the Board to include demographic information on license and renewal applications. In addition, HB 292 would require certain information related to disciplinary activities be included in the Board’s annual report.

The Board currently collects demographic information on its applications for initial licensure. However, collecting demographic data regarding gender, race and ethnicity on renewal applications is not a current practice. Instead, licensees have the option to contact the Board in writing to update this information when necessary. The Board would like clarification regarding whether or not this is sufficient to meet the requirement to “encourage an applicant to provide gender, race and ethnicity information on the application.”

Second, the annual reporting requirements found on line 20 of page 3 through line 2 of page 4 could lead to some privacy issues. While the Board collects demographic information of its licensees, this information is not made public. The Board is concerned that publishing individualized demographic information for disciplined licensees in the annual report could result in a member of the public being able to match the information from the annual report with the public order, thereby making public the race of disciplined licensees.

Lastly, the Board would like to note that demographic information is not provided to Board members when cases are brought before a disciplinary panel unless it is relevant to the facts of the case.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Matthew Dudzic, Health Policy Analyst, Maryland Board of Physicians, 410-764-5042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Damean W. E. Freas".

Damean W. E. Freas, D.O.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

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