



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ motamembers.org

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| Committee: | Health and Government Operations Committee |
| Bill Number: | House Bill 421 |
| Title: | Out-of-State Health Care Practitioners – Provision of Behavioral Health Services via Telehealth – Authorization |
| Hearing Date: | February 10, 2022 |
| Position: | Oppose |

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) opposes *House Bill 421 – Out-of-State Health Care Practitioners – Provision of Behavioral Health Services via Telehealth – Authorization*. This bill allows out-of-state providers to provide behavioral health services in Maryland via telehealth. There is no clear definition of behavioral health services and we are concerned that it could cover the services of occupational therapists.

Last session, Maryland took the important step of joining the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. This compact will allow occupational therapists to provide services between member states. Unlike House Bill 421, the compact sets clear expectations and guidelines for member states and participating providers. For example, the compact includes a process of boards in different states to conduct joint investigations, which is not included in House Bill 421. Although we recognize the importance of interstate practice, we believe that House Bill 421 lacks the many patient protections that exist in the compact.

We ask for an unfavorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net.