



Board of Pharmacy

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

Jennifer L. Hardesty, Board President – Deena Speights-Napata, Executive Director

March 24, 2022

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

RE: Senate Bill 230 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the Board) is submitting this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 230 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

SB 230 will require the Board to create a new class of expedited temporary (valid for six months after issuance) license, registration, and permit for a service member, veteran, or military spouse. The temporary license, registration, or permit requires (1) proof of an application for full licensure, certification, registration, or permitting and (2) would expire six months after issuance. SB 230 will allow a service member, veteran, or military spouse to practice pharmacy while they complete the requirements for licensure, certification, registration, or permitting in Maryland.

The Board's current licensure, registration, and permitting process is completed within one week if a complete application is received. Currently, the Board does not issue a temporary license, registration, or permit to any applicant. Creating and issuing temporary licenses, registrations, and permits will be a huge administrative burden to the Board.

Additionally, the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 requires all Health Occupations Boards to expedite the licensing process for veterans, military spouses, and active-duty services members. *See* Md. Code Ann., Health Occ., §§ 1-701 – 706. The Board is in full compliance with HB 225 (2013) and has posted an informational notice on its website regarding the law. The Board provides application assistance to covered persons that submit a request.

The Board supports full employment of veterans; however, creating a new class of expedited temporary permits will not provide substantial benefits to covered persons and will create administrative burdens for the Board.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov / (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deena Speights-Napata". The signature is written in a cursive style with some vertical lines separating the first and last names.

Deena Speights-Napata, MA
Executive Director

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