



# Board of Physicians

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

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## 2022 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO.:** SB 972 – Physicians and Allied Health Professions – Reorganization and Revisions  
**COMMITTEE:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
**POSITION:** Support

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**TITLE:** Physicians and Allied Health Professions – Reorganization and Revisions

**BILL ANALYSIS:** This bill restructures certain sections of Title 14 of the Health Occupations Article to establish general provisions that apply to all licensees of the Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board). In addition to eliminating duplicative language in Title 14, the bill repeals duplicative provisions in Title 15 and renumbers or reenacts remaining Title 15 language so that all provisions are consolidated in Title 14.

### **POSITION & RATIONALE:**

During the 2020 legislative session, HB 560/SB 395 (State Board of Physicians and Allied Health Advisory Committees - Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation) passed as emergency bills and were enacted on May 8, 2020. Section 5 of the legislation required that the Board submit to this committee and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee a report with recommendations for improving consistency and eliminating redundancy between practitioners regulated by the Board. The Board submitted the report in June 2021.

As outlined in the report, this bill consolidates provisions that apply to all Board licensees but had been copied into several locations as practitioner groups were added to the statute. For example, language regarding change of address requirements appeared in multiple subtitles but now, in this bill, is located in one section to apply to all licensees.

This bill does not include substantive changes in law and does not alter current Board practices or operations. The bill benefits the Board, Board licensees, stakeholders, and consumers in several ways, including but not limited to:

- Ensuring that common provisions are easily accessible in a centralized location in statute for reference;
- Eliminating statutory inconsistencies that raise concerns of fairness among the practitioner groups under the Board's jurisdiction;
- Bringing all allied health statutes together by moving non-duplicative provisions in Title 15 of the Health Occupations Article (regarding physician assistants) to Title 14; and
- Eliminating the need to identify multiple, repetitive statutory provisions that would require amending when a similar provision is changed or new sections are added.

For these reasons, the Board respectfully requests that the committee vote favorably on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Matthew Dudzic, Manager of Policy and Legislation, Maryland Board of Physicians, 410-764-5042.

Sincerely,



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.**