



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE**

February 1, 2022

Senate Bill 111: Occupational Licenses or Certificates -
Pre-application Determinations - Criminal Convictions
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: Favorable

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 111. HFAM represents over 170 skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as nearly 80 associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction in the state.

Senate Bill 111 would establish a process for potential applicants for an occupational license or certificate to obtain a determination, before submitting an application, from a department as to whether certain criminal convictions would be the basis for the denial of an application for a certain occupational license or certificate. It would require a department to provide a determination in writing to the potential applicant and authorize a department to set a reasonable fee to cover the cost of performing the service.

We strongly support this legislation and commend the sponsor for bringing it forward. We view returning citizens as a tremendous potential resource to the community and to trades and occupations. Returning citizens are currently employed in our sector where appropriate, and have the potential to do more as determined by professional occupational boards.

Across healthcare settings in Maryland and throughout the country, we are fighting this most recent surge of the COVID-19 pandemic with fewer people working in healthcare, and particularly fewer people working in skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers. Workforce recruitment and retention was a challenge before the pandemic and it has only grown more challenging over the last two years.

Tens of thousands of healthcare workers in Maryland have left the field since the start of the pandemic. Licensed healthcare professionals are scarce and all healthcare settings are competing for employees from the same labor pool. Returning citizens have the potential to be a tremendous resource in the healthcare workforce crisis we currently face in Maryland.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 111.

Submitted by:

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