



# Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: HB 266 – Public and Nonpublic Schools – Bronchodilator and Epinephrine Availability and Use – Policies – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill 266 – Public and Nonpublic Schools – Bronchodilator and Epinephrine Availability and Use – Policies. This bill requires each county board of education and authorizes non – public schools in the state, before a certain school year, to establish a policy to authorize a school nurse or other school personnel to administer in emergency situations a bronchodilator to a student who is experiencing asthma, reactive airway disease, or asthma – related symptoms; requires a policy to include certain limitations on the administration of a bronchodilator, provisions authorizing a school nurse to designate other school personnel to respond to a student who is experiencing asthma, reactive airway disease, or asthma – related symptoms; requires the State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Health jointly to update certain asthma guidelines in a certain manner on or before a certain date; and requires each county board to make a good faith effort to adopt certain guidelines before the start of a certain school year.

The Maryland State Department of Education’s (MSDE) School Health Services is responsible for developing standards and guidelines related to the safe practice and training of school nurses, the administration of medications, and the delegation of tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel. MSDE has published protocols related to the training and administration of naloxone, medical cannabis, anaphylactic reactions, epinephrine, and management of diabetes, asthma, and sickle cell disease<sup>1</sup>. House Bill (HB) 266 would require that the training and administration of bronchodilators follow similar processes instituted by MSDE. This ensures consistency and uniformity by allowing certain stakeholder workgroups to convene to discuss best practices for bronchodilator administration, safety measures for symptoms and contraindications, and next steps taken by either the nurse or school administrator. The guidelines for the management of students with asthma, developed by MSDE and the Maryland Department of Health, should also address what method of training the school nurse and other school personnel will receive, what school personnel will have access to the bronchodilator medication, and what methods of security will be used to store the medication.

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<sup>1</sup> School Health Services Guidelines – Table of Contents. Maryland State Department of Education.

The Board additionally outlines the following language for the committee's review.

On page 11. Lines 13 – 18. Potential mistake in language.

**(B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, BEFORE THE 2024 – 2025 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH NONPUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE MAY ESTABLISH A POLICY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SCHOOL NURSE OR OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL...**

For the reasons discussed above, the Maryland Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of information for HB 266.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Ms. Iman Farid, Health Planning and Development Administrator, at [iman.farid@maryland.gov](mailto:iman.farid@maryland.gov) or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 ([rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov](mailto:rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov)).

Sincerely,



Gary N. Hicks  
Board President

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