

HB 1162- Study on the Utilization of the Expedited

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Maryland
Hospital Association

March 28, 2023

To: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Re: Letter of Support- House Bill 1162 - Study on the Utilization of the Expedited Licensing Process for Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses

Dear Chair Feldman:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 1162.

Maryland hospitals are facing the most critical staffing shortage in recent memory. A 2022 [GlobalData](#) report estimates a statewide shortage of 5,000 full-time registered nurses and 4,000 licensed practical nurses. Without intervention, shortages could double or even triple by 2035. MHA's [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report](#) outlines a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce it needs now and into the future.

One recommendation for policymakers is to leverage the proximity to the state's military bases to launch a "Green to Blue" campaign to help discharged and retired military personnel with caregiver experience transition into hospital careers. We must invite every qualified health care worker to join the workforce. Easing the transition to working in a civilian capacity would benefit the entire health care system.

HB 1162 would require the Department of Labor, in consultation with the Department of Veterans Affairs, to study the state's process to expedite licensure for qualifying service members, veterans, and military spouses. The study would culminate in a report to the General Assembly about the process. Additionally, the report would include best practices to disseminate information and raise visibility of the program. The state supported members of the military, veterans, and their families through past legislation. Yet, states like Virginia have robust programs that support to veterans, service members and their families throughout the licensure process.¹ HB 1162 can ensure Maryland does not lose qualified health care workers to neighboring states.

For these reasons, we request a *favorable* report on HB 1162.

For more information, please contact:
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¹ Virginia Department of Veterans Services. "[Military Medics and Corpsmen Program.](#)"

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of H.B. 1162

**Study on the Utilization of the Expedited Licensing Process for Service Members,
Veterans, and Military Spouses**

Dear Members of the Committee:

I'm requesting a favorable report on H.B. 1162, the *Study on the Utilization of the Expedited Licensing Process for Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses*.

I feel we all want Maryland to be a safe haven for our military community. Additionally, Maryland has already done good work in the area of empowering these individuals to be able to work in the civilian world in their areas of expertise.

To support those efforts, H.B. 1162 seeks to study not only how we can make sure more of our military members, veterans, and their families know what opportunities are available to them because of the work of this body but how we can improve upon those opportunities. We ultimately want to find ways to improve upon that good work.

Currently, Maryland law requires varying state agencies to help active military personnel, veterans, and their spouses obtain expedited occupational and professional licenses, registrations, and certificates in recognition of their military training and experience.

It also requires occupational units throughout the State government to give credit to service members for relevant military training, education, and experience in connection with any one specific license.

For example, if a veteran served in the military as a nurse and wished to transition the associated credentialing and experience to the same occupation in civilian life, not only would their initial license or certificate application processed by the Board of Nursing (Board) be expedited within 15 business days after receiving all the required documentation for a completed application but the Board could also credit any training and education provided by the military and completed by the veteran toward any training or educational requirements for the license or certificate in civilian life.

This is a great opportunity and should continue throughout the state.

However, even though these opportunities exist within the state of Maryland for service members, veterans, and their spouses, many are not aware of their existence and therefore do not take advantage of them. This is not only a missed opportunity for the state to gain highly experienced workers, but it is also a crucial avenue for service members, veterans, and their spouses to transition from service to civilian life.

To this end, H.B. 1162 is a study, conducted by the Department of Labor and the Department of Veteran's Affairs, to examine several main questions:

1. The number of service members, veterans, and military spouses that have used the expedited process and have had credit for military experience, education, or training applied to license requirements;
2. The type of experience, education and training for which credit may be awarded for licensure and whether or not the experience, education or training is considered substantially equivalent to the requirements associated with the license they are seeking;
3. If used, sample application forms to request credit for experience, education, or training be applied to license requirements;
4. Information on existing and potential outreach activities relating to the expedited licensing process and experience, education, and training being applied to license requirements;
5. Suggested best practices for disseminating the information regarding expedited applications for license and the types and amount of credit offered for experience, education, and training;
6. Increasing visibility on State websites of information regarding the expedited applications and the types and amount of credit offered for experience, education, and training; and
7. A comparison with similar programs and outreach efforts in other states.

The study will be completed and the findings be presented to the Maryland General Assembly and the Governor on or before June 30, 2024.

The intent of H.B. 1162 is to not only ascertain how affective these programs are but to gauge where we can make adjustments to better serve and provide for our military community and their families while investing in the Maryland economy.

I respectfully request a favorable report for H.B. 1162.

Thank you.



Delegate Mike Griffith
35A – Cecil and Harford Counties