



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.](#)"