



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

March 3, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SB 728 - State Board of Examiners in Optometry – Sunset Extension - Letter of Support with Amendments**

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for Senate Bill (SB) 728 - State Board of Examiners in Optometry – Sunset Extension. SB 728 extends the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the State Board of Examiners in Optometry (Board) for three (3) years, until July 1, 2026.

MDH respectfully submits an amendment to shorten the sunset date for the Board from three (3) years to two (2) years. A sunset evaluation and extension is a tool to review existing laws and regulations governing the State's occupational and professional Boards. These reviews facilitate the careful consideration of the Board's purpose and operations, including ensuring that licensing is protecting public health and safety and that licensing is not overly broad or burdensome.<sup>1</sup> Of note, Chapter 511 of the Acts of 2019 eliminated Maryland's automatic 10 year sunset evaluations that were conducted by the Department of Legislative Services prior to extensions.<sup>2</sup> In its place, sunset evaluations are now conducted only when directed by certain entities.

MDH believes a more thorough evaluation of the Health Occupations Boards is needed at this time to assess ongoing concerns related to licensure, technology, and administrative functions. MDH believes a two (2) year sunset extension allows ample time for MDH and the Boards to examine these functions and return to the General Assembly in 2025 with an update.

If you have any questions please contact Megan Peters, Acting Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, at [megan.peters@maryland.gov](mailto:megan.peters@maryland.gov) or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncsl.org/labor-and-employment/sunset-and-sunrise>

<sup>2</sup> <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/sb0640?ys=2019RS>

**Amendment 1**

On page 2, line 3: Strike **2026** and insert **2025**.