



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 291 - Commission on Public Health - Establishment

Hearing Date: February 15, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 291 – Commission on Public Health - Establishment*. The bill forms a Commission on Public Health to make recommendations to improve the delivery of foundational public health services in the state. Foundational public health services are defined as foundational areas and foundational capabilities; these include communicable disease control, chronic disease and injury prevention, environmental public health, maternal, child, and family health, access to care, assessment and surveillance, community partnership development, equity, organizational competencies, policy development and support, accountability and performance management, emergency preparedness and response, and communications.

We support this legislation because it is an opportunity to bring together experts from across state agencies and the public to look at the public health infrastructure in Maryland and determine ways to improve the lived experience of Marylanders. We note that one charge of the Commission is to make recommendations for reform in funding which is a well-documented barrier to access of many of the foundational capabilities listed above; many health programs receive most of their funding from grants, which are a less stable funding source.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.