

HB19_FAV_Sponsor_Testimony

Uploaded by: Delegate Jamilia Woods

Position: FAV

Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. I am Delegate Jamila Woods, representing Legislative District 26, located in the southern quadrant of Prince Georges County, Maryland. I'm here in support of HB 19.

In alignment with efforts to make Psychologists, who meet established licensing requirements, more readily available for service to their stakeholders, this legislation seeks to repeal current requirements, established by the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, for licensing requirements to be mailed via first-class mail. This bill also reverses current licensing procedures, repeatedly requiring certain, previously verified, information to be included on each license and registration.

The advancement of technology has afforded the opportunity for swifter, less complicated, and often more precise recording of required information across the board, for professional service providers. Electronic filing provides for the immediate transfer of required information from one source to the other, allowing for the immediate compilation of information within the State Board of Examiners. This also eliminates the need to transfer paper copies, the assembling of materials from multiple sources, and the labor-intensive process of assuring all information is included, and attachments available, and stored, in the form of paper filing systems.

The adoption of this legislation will afford the State of Maryland to join other states whose psychologists currently benefit from credential renewal through electronic filing, including New Mexico, Wisconsin, and Idaho.

Finally, electronic filing is cost effective, resulting in the elimination of postage, except in those instances where there are barriers to effective communication between the licensee and the licensing agent electronically. In instances where the Board is unable to reach participants electronically, they will be required to send renewal notices by first-class mail to registrants, or at the specific request of the registrants.

We have all witnessed the sometimes-challenging processes involved in what the results of ongoing technology advancement, now references as “snail mail.” This can be due to various circumstances; nevertheless, potentially adversely impacting the timely delivery of information to recipients. Electronic filing will alleviate this, and other timely reporting barriers.

Thank you.

HB19 Written Testimony - Delegate Jamila Woods.pdf

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Thank you.

MPA Testimony 2023 - Support - HB 19 - State Board

Uploaded by: Pat Savage

Position: FAV



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February 6, 2023

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Delegate Ariana B. Kelly, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 19 State Board of Examiners of Psychologists – License and Registration Issuance and Renewals-Electronic Means

Position: **Support**

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association represents over 1000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state. We write in **support of HB 19**, which would allow the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (SBEP) to issue electronic licenses and registrations; repeal the requirement that the Board include certain information on each license and registration; and require the Board to send renewal notices by first-class mail if the electronic notice is returned as undeliverable, or on a specific request by the registrant.

This bill appears to be another important step towards increasing the efficient processing of individuals seeking licensure or registration in Maryland as psychologists or psychological associates. Specifically, HB 19 will make it easier and more efficient for psychologists and psychological associates seeking either a first-time license/registration or renewal of their license/registration. Moreover, it will allow the SBEP to streamline their own process by reducing the information required on the licensing/registration application and save money in printing costs and postage fees. This change would also make it easier for both the SBEP and applicants to more easily and accurately track the process of licensing/registering those who wish to practice psychology in Maryland. Finally, the change to electronic processing will allow anyone who would prefer to continue receiving licensing materials by mail to opt out of the new system by contacting SBEP.

For the reasons noted above the Maryland Psychological Association asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 19.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 19. If we can be of any further assistance as the House – Health and Government Operations Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resnik, Psy.D.

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs

5 - HB 19 - HGO - Psychology Bd - LOS.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: FAV



Board of Examiners of Psychologists

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

Samantha Rukert, Chair – Lorraine Smith, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore MD 21215 Phone: 410-764-4786

2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: HB 19
COMMITTEE: HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
POSITION: SUPPORT

TITLE: State Board of Examiners of Psychologists – License and Registration Issuance and Renewals – Electronic Means

BILL ANALYSIS:

The proposed Bill would authorize the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the Board) to cease printing and mailing paper licenses/registrations and permit those that hold an active license or registration to print verification of their status from the Board's website. In addition, the Board will no longer have to mail renewal notices, except in exceptional circumstances, but allows the Board to email renewal notices.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Board currently prints and mails licenses, registrations, and renewal notices. Using available electronic technology will expedite communication, improve accuracy, and are cost-saving measures.

Thank you for your time and support. The Board of Examiners of Psychologists respectfully asks for a favorable vote for HB 19. For more information, please contact Lorraine Smith, Executive Director at Lorraine.smith@Maryland.gov or at 410-764-4786.

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